

**COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION  
MINUTES: MARCH 17, 2008**

**LEGISLATION**

**MEMBERS:**

Chair: Burton; Legislators: Harckham, Nonna, Myers, Bronz, Oros

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**CE:** A. Neuman, B. Randolph A. Huang; **CA:** L. Trentacoste, L. Cipollo; **FINANCE:** Y. Scardera; **BOL:** S. Bass, C. Crane, J. Sold, R. Deleon-Awaha; **GUESTS:** L. Mottese, S Rosario, E. Pepper

With a quorum present, the Committee on Legislation was called to order at 1:38 p.m.

**AUTHORIZING JOHN O'LEARY FOR RETROACTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN THE NYS RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

(Bronz, Myers) Motion to request the enactment of A7593/S5985 to authorize John P. O'Leary to apply for retroactive membership in the New York state and local employees' retirement system. Motion approved 5-0.

**ESTABLISHING AN AT-STORE PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING PROGRAM**

(Nonna, Myers) Move to approve for all purposes, as amended, a local law that requires an At-Store Recycling Program for Plastic Bags.

Andrew Neuman of the County Executives office gave an overview of the proposed local law. It requires stores greater than 10,000 square feet to provide an in-store recycling program. They will be mandated to provide plastic bag receptacles to customers and stores will have to dispose of them in an environmentally sound manner. The Department of Environmental Facilities is the enforcing agency. There is also a fine component.

Steve Rosario, Director of the Northeast Regional Office for the American Chemistry Council spoke in support of the proposal.

Lorelei Mottese, Manager of Government Relations from Wakefern Shoprite recommended some changes to the legislation. Shoprite has voluntarily instituted a bag recycling program. They suggest to amend the measure to include receptacles be placed in a visible location which is easily accessible for consumers. They do not object to including stores at 10,000 square feet

and over but chain stores with 5 or more locations regardless of square footage should also be included. Chain stores also need to be good corporate neighbors and be environmentally responsible.

Mr. Neuman believes that areas over 5000 square feet which is in the New York City Law would not work here in Westchester. Manhattan stores are generally smaller than here in Westchester. They tend to support the Suffolk county version which includes areas over 10,000 square feet.

Chairman Burton asked the County Attorney's office to include the amendment about the placement of recycling receptacles and the committee will revisit the square footage issue next year. We can consider five chain stores of 5000 square feet or more and any additional amendments.

Emmett Pepper from the Citizens Campaign for the Environment supports the legislation in its current form but believes we should join Suffolk County and New York City by moving away from plastic bags and requiring reusable bags be sold at stores.

Motion approved 6-0.

(Bronz, Harckham) move to adjourn the Committee on Legislation. Motion approved 6-0. 2:21 p.m.

**AUDIO RECORDING ON FILE FOR REVIEW UPON REQUEST**