

Transportation Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

11:00 AM in Zoom and YouTube Live

The meeting was called to order at 11:13 by Chairman, Rep. Lemar R. 096.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Cassano S. S04; Daugherty Abrams M. S13; Haskell W. S26; Lopes R. S06; Martin H. S31; Needleman N. S33; Osten C. S19; Somers H. S18

Representatives: Berger-Girvalo A. 111; Blumenthal M. 147; Carney D. 023; Chafee B. 033; Concepcion J. 004; Conley C. 040; Dauphinais A. 044; Devlin L. 134; Goupil C. 035; Haines I. 034; Harrison C. 069; Labriola D. 131; Lemar R. 096; McCarthy Vahey C. 133; Meskers S. 150; Michel D. 146; Morrin Bello A. 028; O'Dea T. 125; Rebimbas R. 070; Reyes G. 075; Rosario C. 128; Simms T. 140; Smith B. 048; Steinberg J. 136; Thomas S. 143; Zawistowski T. 061; Zupkus L. 089

Absent were:

Senators: Kissel J. S07

Representatives:

Vice Chair, Rep. Simms T. 140 called the meeting to order at 11:13 am. Meeting recessed until 11:20 am.

Chairman, Lemar R. 096 calls meeting back to order at 11:20 am.

Chairman, Lemar R. 096 entertained a motion to hear SB 127. Motion made by Sen. Haskell W. S26, seconded by Rep. Michel D. 146.

Rep. Carney D. 023 asked questions regarding Section 3, Item 1, specifically in relation to legacy manufacturers. Answered by Sen. Haskell W. S26. Rep. Carney D. 023 followed up and asked what economic impact this bill could have. Answered by Sen. Haskell W. S26. Rep. Carney D. 023 asked questions regarding consumer protection. Answered by Sen. Haskell W. S26. Rep. Carney D. 023 shares his thoughts on the global electric vehicle economy.

Sen. Somers H S18 expresses support for the current dealership model and expresses concern with Tesla. Concerns about employment opportunities answered by Rep. Lemar R. 096 and Sen. Haskell W. S26. Rep. Steinberg J. 136 also responds to the concerns.

Rep. Meskers S. 150 expresses thoughts on the economic impact of this legislation.

Sen. Cassano S. S04 offers comments on the history of dealerships in the state and asks that electric vehicle companies work within the same framework.

Rep. O'Dea T. 125 offers comments on his experience in working with Tesla and asks if Tesla has offered a commitment towards economic development. Sen. Haskell W. S26 answers and says that there's no requirement towards economic development in the legislation, but rather that it will be left up to market forces. Rep. O'Dea T. 125 expresses interest in improving the franchise law.

Rep. Berger-Girvalo A. 111 comments on consumer protection regarding Tesla.

Sen. Martin H. S31 offers comments on the legislations. Questions whether this would be good for consumers.

**The motion was passed by roll call vote 25-10.**

Chairmen Lemar R. 096 entertains motion to move into item number two, SB 920. Motion by Rep. Simms T. 140, seconded by Sen. Haskell W. S26.

Sen. Haskell W. S26 gives comments on the legislation. States that it renews previous public private partnership statute and that it does not change the conditions needs for a project to move forward.

Rep. O'Dea T. 125 gives thanks to Sen. Haskell for his effort on this legislation.

Sen. Martin H. S31 expresses concern regarding the funding for future projects. Sen. Haskell W S26 answers that his hope would be to expand the methods of generating funding for future potential projects.

Rep. Meskers S. 150 and Rep. Devlin L. 134 offer their thoughts on the legislation.

**The motion was passed by a roll call vote 34-1.**

Chairman Lemar R. 096 entertained a motion to move into item number three, SB 982. Motion by Rep. Simms T. 140, seconded by Rep. Carney D. 023.

Rep. Lemar R. 096 announced SB 982 and HB 6484 as this session's "agency bills".

Rep. O'Dea T. 125 expressed concern with section one, which allows new 16 and 17 year old drivers to drive their sibling to and from school. Rep. McCarthy Vahey C. 123 agrees. Rep. Smith B. 048 recalls personal experience with this matter.

**The motion was passed by a roll call vote 35-0.**

Chairman Lemar R. 096 entertains motion to raise item number four, HB 6484. Motion by Rep. McCarthy Vahey C. 123, seconded by Rep. Simms T. 140.

Rep. McCarthy Vahey C. 123 recognizes this as the large DOT recommendations bill. Expresses support for the provision of the legislation that requires seat belts to be worn by backseat passengers.

Rep. O'Dea T. 125 puts forth an amendment to line 22. Recognized by Chair as a friendly amendment.

**The amendment was passed by a voice vote.**

**The motion was passed by a roll call vote 33-2.**

Chairman Lemar R. 096 entertains a motion to move onto item number five, SB 576. Motion by Rep. Carney D. 023, seconded by Rep. Simms T. 140.

Rep. Carney D. 023 moves to start a consent calendar. Seconded by Sen. Haskell W. S26. Rep. Carney D. 023 moves to move SB 576 in the consent calendar. Seconded by Rep. Simms T. 140. No opposition raised.

Rep. McCarthy Vahey C. 123 motions to raise SB 983. Rep. Simms T. 140 seconds.

Rep. McCarthy Vahey C. 123 expresses support for legislation.

Rep. Harrison C. 069 expresses concern about the passing of the double yellow line in relation to this legislation. Rep. Lemar R. 096 expresses a desire to work towards that concern.

Rep. Carney D. 023 motions to move SB 983 to the consent calendar. Seconded by Rep. Simms T. 140. No opposition raised.

Rep. Smith B. 048 motions to raise HB 5420. Seconded by Rep. Carney D. 023.

Rep. Smith B. 048 explains the proposed legislation and thanks the committee for putting it forward. Rep. Carney D. 023 thanks Rep. Smith for his work on this legislation. Sen. Haskell W. S26 echoes Rep. Carney's support.

Rep. Carney D. 023 motions to move HB 5420 to the consent calendar. Seconded by Rep. Simms T. 140. No opposition raised.

Rep. Michel D. 146 motions to move to the next item, HB 6066. Seconded by Rep. McCarthy Vahey C. 123.

Rep. Carney D. 023 motions to move HB 6066 to the consent calendar. Seconded by Rep. Michel D. 146. No opposition raised.

Clerk announces the pieces of legislation on the consent calendar: SB 576, SB 983, HB 5420, and HB 6066.

**Consent calendar passes by roll call vote 35-0.**

Chairman Lemar R. 096 recesses the meeting and keeps voting open until 3:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

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Justin Kaiser  
Asst. Committee Clerk

Phil Mainiero  
Committee Clerk