



Committee on Legislation

~MINUTES~

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

1:00 PM

DRAFT

Committee Chair: Kitley Covill

Committee Room, 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601

www.westchesterlegislators.com

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Legislator K. Covill called the meeting to order at 1:09PM.

Items # 1&2 are joint with the Committees on Labor & Housing, Social Services and Budget & Appropriations.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Kitley Covill	Chair	Present	
Catherine Borgia	D9 Legislator	Present	
Gordon A. Burrows	D15 Legislator (Minority Whip)	Present	
MaryJane Shimsky	D12 Legislator (Majority Whip)	Present	
John G. Testa	D1 Legislator (Minority Leader)	Absent	
Alfreda Williams	D8 Legislator (Vice Chair)	Present	

Others In Attendance: LAW: L. Trentacoste BOL: Leg. D. Maher, Leg. N. Barr, Leg. C. Parker, Leg. D. Tubiolo, Leg. C. Johndon, D. Linhardt, A. Restiano, T. Limengo, E. Pierce
GUESTS: M. Kocolatos, J. Puyer, M. Kercado, K. Schatzel, T. Young, CarLa Horton.

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The Committee continued to discuss the 2019 Westchester County Joint State Legislative Package. Leg. Johnson asked if funds for the new election laws, particularly Early Voting had been included in the package. Chair Covill said that they were included. She announced that there was a rough draft which they will discussed.

Leg. Covill discussed the package one by one. She announced that there will be a new proposal to raise the county sales tax.

Leg. Covill very briefly went over each item. Leg. Shimsky spoke to the item on p. 14 - Increase NYS Highway Improvement Funding. She noted that we received a small increase and the base amount of the CHIPS allotment still needs to be raised. There was a brief discussion on other transportation items supported by NYSAC.

Item #16 -Indian Point Power Plant Cessation Mitigation Fund-asking for a dedicated line of funding for Indian Point along with the general funds in the budget. A brief discussion followed.

Item #20 - Eliminate Westchester's Referendum Requirement for Capital Projects - They discussed requesting a new amount. Leg. Shimsky noted that other counties have no limits. They decided to request an increase from \$10 million to \$15 million.

Item 23 - Require NYS to Pay Property Taxes on its Land in Westchester County. The Committee decided that as this was an issue of parity, it should be moved up to the front of the package.

There was a discussion of some of the items that Assemblywoman Galef submitted that had not been included in the package. Leg. Covill said they need more information on some of them.

The committee could not vote on the package because there was not a quorum.

1. **(ID # 11245) Resolution – LEGISLATORS BORGIA, PARKER, A. WILLIAMS, SHIMSKY, BARR, COVILL, CLEMENTS, CUNZIO, MAHER AND BOYKIN: PH - Safe Leave:**

A RESOLUTION to set a Public Hearing on a "Local Law amending the Laws of Westchester County to add a new Chapter 586 which will provide safe time leave for victims of domestic violence." [Public Hearing set for _____, 2018 at _____ .m.].

Please see Item #2 for discussion.

RESULT:	PENDING
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2. **(ID # 11246) Local Law – LEGISLATORS BORGIA, PARKER, A. WILLIAMS, SHIMSKY, BARR, COVILL, CLEMENTS, CUNZIO, MAHER AND BOYKIN- Safe Leave:**

A LOCAL LAW amending the Laws of Westchester County to add a new Chapter 586 which will provide safe time leave for victims of domestic violence.

Linda Trentacoste of the Law Department began the discussion of the proposed Local Law-Safe Leave. She was joined by Jen Puja, Labor Council Director, WPCLB, Maria Kercado, 1199 SEIU, CarlLa Horton, Executive Director, Hope's Door, Tasha Young, My Sister's Place and Marcella Kocolatos, A Better Balance.

Ms. Trentacoste began by stating that this was originally part of the Sick Leave Local Law but the Committees, the Law Department and the advocates felt that this issue goes above and beyond what the Sick Leave legislation addressed as well as what the victims may need. The intention of the law is to provide job and wage security for people when they are at the most difficult moments of their lives. It was discussed that victims of domestic violence find themselves in fragile situations of uncertainty with fear for themselves and the safety of their families. During these times victims sometimes need to relocate or attend criminal and court proceedings. Ms. Young noted that currently there no laws which would protect victims from losing their jobs. Legislator Covill discussed that the VAWA- Violence Against Women Act has expired and they were looking into finding more information and how would it affect the legislation. They mentioned that they would address this topic at a later date. Legislator Borgia asked, what happens now if a victim is dealing with a domestic violence situation. Tasha Young explained that as stated there is no legal protection and her organization was looking to partner with local governments. She noted that most victims have repeated absences, and very rarely inform the employer of what is actually going on in their lives for fear of losing their job. There was a discussion concerning the current language which has not addressed documentation for employers and is silent on whether it covers part time employees and the size of the business.

A discussion was held as to whether to mimic the language of the Sick Leave and will the 40 hours be enough. Legislator Burrows and Legislator Covill noted that a court proceeding requires time off above and beyond what is allotted in the Sick Leave legislation.

Legislator Borgia asked about what documentation would be necessary to show employers? The members discussed possible options. Marcella Kocolatos from A Better Balance discussed possible language additions to address the documentation required for employers.

Legislator Tubiolo asked if they could get statistics on how many people receive services. It was mentioned that a request has been submitted to the Office of Women, and Legislator Covill will reach out to the Department of Social Services. Tanya Young from My Sister's Place asked when revising the language could the committee consider including Labor Trafficking and Human Trafficking.

The members discussed enforcement. Legislator Covill stated she had spoken to Jim Masiano and the Department of Consumer Affairs agreed to hold the hearings but she didn't know who will take the complaints.

Jenn Puja from AFL-CIO spoke on the how her coalition was very involved in the Sick Leave Legislation and that they are very in favor of Safe Leave Legislation. She said with this Legislation in place it will help those who have not come forward. She discussed the coalition works with My Sister's Place and Hope's Door, and this is a good resource for Labor to have. Legislator Borgia asked how the time off is covered by some Collective Bargaining Agreements. Maria Kercado from 1199 discussed that some agreements have specifically addressed how to handle this issue. Legal situations do not supersede the agreement. She mentioned that some agreements do specifically speak to Sick Leave.

There was a short discussion on including human trafficking in the legislation.

No action was taken.

<http://westchestercountyny.iqm2.com/Citizens/default.aspx>

RESULT:	PENDING
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II. OTHER BUSINESS

Unfinished Business and any other agenda items to come before the Committee.

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator A. Williams, seconded by Legislator K. Covill the Committee adjourned at 2:35PM.