Agriculture Committee Minutes

3/27/2013

Chair Atkins called the meeting to order at 11:59 am. Members present include Reps. Carson, Paradee, Spiegelman, Outten and Wilson. Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture was also present. For a full list of attendees, see the attendance sheet below.

Chair Atkins introduced the bill, **HB 116: AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 3 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO HORSE RACING.**

Chair Atkins noted that this bill was supported by the Department of Agriculture and the Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association. He also introduced Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture, to say a few words about the bill.

Sec. Kee stated that this bill was supported by the administrators of Delaware Park, who would like to operate an 80-day racing season as opposed to a 100-day season. This would be an effort to increase profits, as the shorter seasons have been known in other states to attract higher purses, which thus attract more talented horses and jockeys to race in Delaware.

Chair Atkins also acknowledged the presence of Mark Isaacs of the University of Delaware at the meeting, if anyone had any additional questions.

Chair Atkins called for a vote to release the bill from committee. The bill was released from committee with a F=7, M=0, U=0

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Whitehouse

Attendance

Bessie Gruwell- DTHA

Madeline Loack- DTHA

Mark Issacs- University of Delaware

Christy Wright- Nemours Health & Prevention Services

Ed Kee- Department of Agriculture