Orientation Meeting
1.19.2017

Chair Walsh called the meeting to order at 12:03pm. Members present included Vice Chair Bolden, Senators Pettyjohn, Richardson, Sokola, and Townsend; and Representatives Bennett, Brady, Dukes, and Spiegelman. No additional guests were present for the duration of the meeting.

Chair Walsh welcomed the members of the committee to the first meeting of the Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee (JLOSC) and called for introductions of members present. Chair Walsh read a brief explanation of the role of the joint committee. He then introduced Julie Fedele, JLOSC Analyst, and the Legislative Attorney, Holly Vaughn Wagner.

Ms. Fedele detailed her role as analyst for the committee. Ms. Fedele then presented the agenda to include brief discussions of the sunset process, proposed JLOSC rules update, and proposed enhancements to JLOSC’s enforcement capability. Ms. Fedele reminded the committee of the 2017 sunset review selections. Selections include the Delaware State Board of Education, Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation, Delaware Information Analysis Center, and Delaware Human Relations Commission.

Ms. Fedele reminded the committee members of the three entities on hold. Entities included the Diamond State Board Corporation, Board of Clinical Social Work Examiners, and Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline.

Ms. Vaughn Wagner led brief discussions detailing the review and review process, meeting format, recommendations system, and legislative drafting process. She reminded the committee that all questionnaires had been received and draft reports of those materials were being prepared for distribution prior to the public meetings. Ms. Vaughn Wagner proceeded to explain that at the public hearings, committee members would ask questions of the entity in conjunction with receiving public comment. Following those hearings, Ms. Fedele will compile a list of recommendations for committee consideration to be voted on at recommendation hearings. Ms. Vaughn Wagner reminded the committee members that they have the option to continue the entity in its present form, terminate the entity, terminate the entity unless certain conditions are met, terminate specific programs conducted by the entity, or restrict budgetary appropriations to the entity.
Vice-Chair Bolden asked how the process to enhance the committee’s ability to enforce recommendations will proceed. Ms. Vaughn Wagner answered that a draft bill was included in meeting materials, and was open to the preferences of the committee members.

Representative Spiegelman asked that if for whatever reason a statutory amendment bill does not pass, if the committee recommend that entities resubmit the bill in the following year without formally holding them over. Ms. Vaughn Wagner clarified that the enforcement statute can be modified to include language that would only require the entity to draft legislation, rather than requiring that the legislation pass.

Ms. Vaughn Wagner briefly discussed proposed amendments to the Joint Sunset Committee Rules. She then explained that most of the changes are technical, taking out references to the former committee name. The only substantive change is located in Rule 16 to add the sentence “the rules may be suspended upon a motion approved by a quorum of the committee.”

Senator Pettyjohn motioned to approve the rules with proposed amendments. Motion Carried. Yes-10.

Chair Walsh adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.

Respectfully prepared by:

Julie Fedele, Research Analyst-Joint Sunset Committee

Access to the audio recording of this proceeding is available upon request.