

VALERIE J. LONGHURST
Majority Leader
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
15th District



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF DELAWARE
411 LEGISLATIVE AVENUE
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

COMMITTEES
Ethics, Chair
House Administration, Chair
House Rules, Chair
Gaming & Parimutuels
House Manufactured Housing

House Administration Committee Meeting Minutes
1.16.19

Chair Longhurst called the meeting to order at 2:39 p.m. Members present included Speaker Schwartzkopf and Reps. Mitchell and Short.

Chair Longhurst introduced **HB 34, AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH RELATING TO MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND VOTING.** Speaker Schwartzkopf, the sponsor of the bill, explained that the Act amends the Charter of the City of Rehoboth Beach to make Sections 3 through 7 gender-neutral, to provide travel reimbursement at the Internal Revenue Service rate rather than the Sussex County Sheriff's rate, to reduce the ownership requirement for non-resident freeholders for voter eligibility from six months to thirty days, to make the City's process to purge individuals from the Books of Registered Voters consistent with the State's process, and to allow for voter registration up to thirty days prior to the Annual Municipal Election.

Chair Longhurst opened up the floor for public comment. Seeing none, Chair Longhurst requested a motion.

A motion to release HB 34 was made by Rep. Mitchell and seconded by Rep. Short; motion carried. Yes -4 (Longhurst, Schwartzkopf, Mitchell, and Short); Absent -1 (Dukes). HB 34 was released from committee with a F=0, M=4, U=0 vote.

Before the committee continued, Speaker Schwartzkopf made clarifications about the bill after the vote. He stated there was a question brought up prior to the meeting in an email from a Newark resident about whether or not the legislature has the authority to amend a municipal charter. Speaker Schwartzkopf stated that the legislature is able to amend the charters of municipalities similar to Rehoboth that are not home-rule, like Newark.

Chair Longhurst introduced **HB 40, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 7 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE FORT DUPONT REDEVELOPMENT AND PRESERVATION CORPORATION.** Chair Longhurst, the sponsor of the bill stated that the bill was requested by the Fort DuPont Redevelopment and Preservation Corporation's Executive Director Jeff Randol, as they have evolved over the last few years and would like to move forward with new initiatives. Chair Longhurst stated that the bill: (1) increases the number of directors on the Board and allows the Board to appoint four additional directors; (2) implements clarifying language; (3) sunsets the former Advisory Council to replace it with a subcommittee structure to allow greater participation from members of the public and to allow the Corporation to appoint and receive assistance and expertise from a greater variety of experts; and (4) allows

the Board of Directors to amend the Certificate of Incorporation with approval from the General Assembly.

Chair Longhurst opened up the floor for public comment. Seeing as there were none, Chair Longhurst requested a motion.

A motion to release HB 40 was made by Rep. Short and seconded by Rep. Mitchell; motion carried. Yes – 4 (Longhurst, Schwartzkopf, Mitchell, and Short); Absent – 1 (Dukes). HB 40 was released from committee with a F=0, M=4, U=0 vote.

Chair Longhurst adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Natalie Criscenzo