

# Senate Executive Committee Meeting

Official Minutes  
150<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
First Session

Committee Meeting  
Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
2:30 p.m.  
Senate Chamber, 1st Floor

## Meeting Attendance

### Committee Members Present:

Senator David B. McBride	<a href="mailto:David.McBride@delaware.gov">David.McBride@delaware.gov</a>
Senator Nicole Poore	<a href="mailto:Nicole.Poore@delaware.gov">Nicole.Poore@delaware.gov</a>
Senator Harris B. McDowell	<a href="mailto:Harris.McDowell@delaware.gov">Harris.McDowell@delaware.gov</a>
Senator Bryan Townsend	<a href="mailto:Bryan.Townsend@delaware.gov">Bryan.Townsend@delaware.gov</a>
Senator Catherine Cloutier	<a href="mailto:Catherine.Cloutier@delaware.gov">Catherine.Cloutier@delaware.gov</a>
Senator Gerald W. Hocker	<a href="mailto:Gerald.Hocker@delaware.gov">Gerald.Hocker@delaware.gov</a>

### Absent:

None

### Staff:

Valerie McCartan	<a href="mailto:Valerie.McCartan@delaware.gov">Valerie.McCartan@delaware.gov</a>
Meghan Mullennix	<a href="mailto:Meghan.Meghan@delaware.gov">Meghan.Meghan@delaware.gov</a>

### Agenda:

Senate Bill 73  
Senate Bill 68  
Senate Bill 70  
Senate Bill 82

**Senator McBride** convened the meeting at 2:35 pm.

The hearing on Senate Bill 73 was postponed.

**Senator Hocker** posed questions to Senator Townsend, Senator Sturgeon, and Senator Sokola, the primary sponsors of SB 68, SB 70, and SB 82.

**Senator McBride** recognized Attorney General Kathy Jennings.

**Attorney General Kathy Jennings** testified in support of all three pieces of legislation. AG Jennings discussed how the proposed qualified purchase card addressed straw purchases and conveyed her belief that the bills decreased the likelihood of a mass shooting in Delaware. The Attorney General also cited surveys that showed majority support for similar measures across partisan lines. The Attorney General's full testimony was provided in the supplemental document.

**Senator McBride** recognized Dennis Sirman.

**Dennis Sirman** testified against the three pieces of legislation, as he questioned the compelling need for such measures.

**Senator McBride** recognized Alexander Ballard.

**Alexander Ballard** identified himself as a certified firearms instructor and opposed the three pieces of legislation. He argued that firearms were important components of personal safety and cited the continued existence of drug crime as proof that laws did not stop criminals.

**Senator McBride** recognized Dr. Mark Cipolle.

**Dr. Mark Cipolle** identified himself as a trauma surgeon in Wilmington, DE. Dr. Cipolle testified in support of the three pieces of legislation, on behalf of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT), the Christiana Care Health System, and the Delaware Trauma System. He stated that most weapons used in mass shootings were obtained legally and cited the experience of health care providers in treating victims of such tragedies and their families. He argued that the legislation was a preventative public health strategy. Dr. Cipolle's testimony was attached in the supplemental document.

**Senator McBride** recognized David Pucino.

**David Pucino**, staff attorney with the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, testified in support of SB 82 on behalf of the Giffords Center. He argued that SB 82 saved lives by reducing gun crime and facilitating law enforcement investigations into gun crime. His testimony was attached in the supplemental document.

**Senator McBride** recognized Bill Sharpe.

**Bill Sharpe** testified against the three pieces of legislation. He argued that the legislature was attempting to turn a constitutional right into privilege. He stated that gun violence rates did not go down with firearm regulation, that instead firearm regulation was a precursor to tragedy.

**Senator McBride** recognized Terry Baker.

**Terry Baker** testified against the three pieces of legislation, describing the bills as unconstitutional. He argued that the legislation put vulnerable victims in harm's way. He expressed doubt regarding the motivation for such legislation and conveyed his concern over the Legislature's attentiveness to its constituency's interests.

**Senator McBride** recognized Isheta Smith.

**Isheta Smith** identified herself as a volunteer leader with Moms Demand Action. She testified in support of the three pieces of legislation, expressing concern for the safety of Delawareans. She cited the passage of such bills in neighboring states.

**Senator McBride** recognized Elizabeth Berger.

**Elizabeth Berger** testified against the three pieces of legislation. She argued that responsible gun owners were not the problem and urged the government to choose other methods of addressing crime that did not impede constitutional rights. She stated that firearm regulation put citizens at risk and did not reduce crime.

**Senator McBride** recognized Sarah Stowens.

**Sarah Stowens**, with Moms Demand Action, testified in support of the three pieces of legislation, particularly SB 68 due to the threat of mass shootings with assault weapons. She cited widespread support for the legislation and her desire for a safer community.

**Senator McBride** recognized Paul Johnson.

**Paul Johnson**, of the Colonial Region Republicans, testified against the three pieces of legislation. He argued that the government was dropping charges in firearm related criminal cases too often, a problem he stated should be addressed instead. He stated that the proposed pieces of legislation were unconstitutional and ineffective, citing the fact that criminals did not follow the law.

**Senator McBride** recognized David Johnson.

**David Johnson** testified against the three pieces of legislation, arguing that they were ineffective and poor governance.

**Senator McBride** recognized Nick Miles.

**Nick Miles** testified against the three pieces of legislation, on account of the protection firearms provided.

**Senator McBride** recognized Trini Gumerman.

**Trini Gumerman** testified against the three pieces of legislation, expressing doubt about the impact because criminals do not follow laws and firearms protect people.

**Senator McBride** recognized Paul Gumerman.

**Paul Gumerman** argued that the three pieces of legislation were unconstitutional and thus violated the legislators' oaths of office. Mr. Gumerman expressed concerns over the power of the Legislature. Mr. Gumerman's testimony was attached to the supplemental document.

**Senator McBride** recognized Megan O'Donnell.

**Megan O'Donnell** testified against the three pieces of legislation and expressed concern for the impact of firearm regulation on fast self-protection.

**Senator McBride** recognized Dr. Sam Stubblefield.

**Dr. Sam Stubblefield**, of the AAP, spoke in favor of SB 68 and SB 70. Dr. Stubblefield argued that such legislation would combat gun violence.

**Senator McBride** recognized Carol Spiker.

**Carol Spiker**, of Indivisible, testified in support of the three pieces of legislation, citing personal experiences. Ms. Spiker cited the monetary and human cost of gun violence.

**Senator McBride** recognized Bob Addonizio.

**Bob Addonizio** argued against the three pieces of legislation, citing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and expressing doubt about the motivation for the bills.

**Senator McBride** recognized Alan Knight.

**Alan Knight** argued against the three pieces of legislation, citing constitutional concerns. Mr. Knight's written testimony was provided in the supplemental document.

**Senator McBride** recognized Mara Gorman.

**Mara Gorman** testified in support of the three pieces of legislation, arguing that firearm regulation reduced gun violence.

**Senator McBride** recognized Doug Drummond.

**Doug Drummond** offered testimony that the bills should have been delayed until questions were answered. He expressed concern regarding the financial burden of complying with regulation.

**Senator McBride** recognized Jay Hammond.

**Jay Hammond** testified against the three pieces of legislation and expressed concern for the health of the Republic.

**Senator McBride** recognized Amanda Hammond.

**Amanda Hammond** testified against the three pieces of legislation, citing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. Ms. Hammond urged legislators to focus on other public policy problems such as infrastructure and schools.

**Senator McBride** recognized Jeff Hague.

**Jeff Hague**, of the Delaware State Sportsman Association, testified against the three pieces of legislation, citing potential unconstitutionality. Mr. Hague pointed to a Center for Disease Control report on gun violence that had no recommendations for more firearm regulation.

**Senator McBride** recognized Julie Price.

**Julie Price**, with the League of Women Voters, testified in support of the three pieces of legislation, arguing that they would save lives.

The public was invited to submit written testimony, as no time remained for further comment.

**Senator Poore** motioned to approve the minutes from April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Senator Townsend** seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved.

**Senator Hocker** made a motion to table the three pieces of legislation.

There was no second and the motion was not agreed to.

**Senator McBride** adjourned the meeting at 4:46 pm.