



SEAN M. LYNN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
31st District

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

COMMITTEES
Judiciary, Chair Agriculture Education
Health & Human Development
Public Safety & Homeland Security

House Judiciary Committee Meeting Minutes

1.12.22

This committee meeting has been recorded and may be accessed via legis.delaware.gov

Chair Lynn called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Members present included Reps. Brady, Bush, Cooke, Dorsey Walker, Gray, Spiegelman, Vanderwende. Rep. Osienski was also present. For a list of guests present, please see the attendance list below.

Chair Lynn introduced **HB 274, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 10 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO CHANGE OF NAME.**

Rep. Osienski emphasized that 20 other states, including New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia, do not require individuals seeking to change their name to publish notice of the petition in a local newspaper at least once a week for 3 weeks before the petition is filed. 11 states, including Delaware, do not have a court procedure to waive the public notification requirement. States that allow this requirement to be waived do so generally for victims of stalking, domestic abuse, or other instances in which a court determines publication poses a risk of harm.

Rep. Osienski stated that the requirement only serves to add an additional financial barrier to those seeking to change their names. He noted The News Journal currently charges \$115 for the publication requirement.

A motion was made by Rep. Brady and seconded by Rep. Dorsey Walker to release HB 274 from committee; motion carried. Yes= 8 (Lynn, Cooke, Bush, Brady, Dorsey Walker, Spiegelman, Vanderwende, Gray); No= 0; Absent= 3 (Griffith, Mitchell, Smyk). The bill was released from committee with a F=2, M=5, U=0 vote.

Chair Lynn adjourned the meeting at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Wyatt Patterson

Legislative Fellow



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Attendance List

- Zaineb Chaudry
- Sherri Knott
- Dawn Hopkins
- Brandon Williams

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