

VALERIE J. LONGHURST
Majority Leader
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
15th District



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

COMMITTEES
Administration, Chair
Ethics, Chair
House Rules, Chair
Legislative Council
Manufactured Housing

**House Administration Committee Meeting Minutes
05.11.22**

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

Chair Longhurst called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. Members included Speaker Schwartzkopf and Reps. Dukes, D. Short, and Mitchell.

Chair Longhurst introduced **HS 1 for HB 93, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO GRANTS-IN-AID.**

Rep. Smith, additional sponsor of the bill, explained that millions of state dollars are provided to nonprofits in Delaware via grant-in-aid applications. The increasing number of applications has strained the ability of the Joint Finance Committee to efficiently and effectively allocate funds. This year, there were 380 applicants totaling \$34 million in requests; 29 were first-time applicants. Creating a committee would allow a dedicated group of legislators to work specifically on grant-in-aid requests and would provide more transparency. An amendment was filed to change the effective date of the bill to August 1, 2022.

Chair Longhurst mentioned that this bill was passed a few years ago by her and Rep. Briggs King in the House but did not receive a hearing in the Senate. She believes that this is a more efficient way to administer state government money and stated her support for the bill.

Rep. Mitchell noted the lengthy process of the work of the Joint Finance Committee and agreed that the current grant-in-aid process is not efficient. He voiced his support for the bill.

Speaker Schwartzkopf stated that he was on the JFC committee for four years, and the grants-in-aid portion of the state budget is often treated as an afterthought. Part of the problem with the previous iteration of the bill that passed in the House was that the Senate has fewer members and less ability to staff committees; however, they can still appoint people to committees.

Chair Longhurst opened the committee to public comment.

Melissa Hopkins, from Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement, stated that, while she does not have the expertise to decide if there should be a committee for it, amending language to approve the efficiency of the grant-in-aid process would serve nonprofits and the state better.

Chair Longhurst opened the committee to virtual public comment.

A motion was made by Rep. D Short and seconded by Rep. Mitchell and Speaker Schwartzkopf to release HS 1 for HB 93 from committee; the motion carried. Yes= 5 (Longhurst, Schwartzkopf, Mitchell, Dukes, D. Short); No= 0; Absent= 0. The bill was released from committee with a F=2, M=3, U=0 vote.

Chair Longhurst introduced **HS 390, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO DESIGNATING THE DRYPTOSAURIDAE THE OFFICIAL DINOSAUR OF DELAWARE.**

Rep. Baumbach, sponsor of the bill, explained that students from Shue-Medill Middle School were responsible for the first 25 lines of bill language. This bill would establish a state dinosaur, the Dryptosauridae, a relative of the Tyrannosaurus rex. Numerous dinosaur fossils have been found in Delaware, and the students from Shue-Medill Middle School researched and made recommendations on dinosaur candidates to make the decision. Rep. Baumbach thanked Deborah Gottschalk from the Delaware Division of Research for her help on the bill, and the Delaware Museum of Nature and Science for their expertise.

Chair Longhurst mentioned that the dinosaur fossil has been found in her district.

Chair Longhurst opened the committee to public comment.

Olivia White, an eighth grader from Shue-Medill Middle School, said that working on the legislation was inspiring and thanked those who helped with the process.

Natali Gogoladze, an eighth grader from Shue-Medill Middle School, thanked Rep. Baumbach for choosing their school for this honor. Many students worked together to research and pick the most appropriate option. This dinosaur was partially chosen because it is bird-like, like the blue hen, and reminded them of the Delaware ecosystem. They worked to make the decision democratic and hear everyone's opinion.

Elijah Roman, an eighth grader from Shue-Medill Middle School, thanked the committee for the opportunity.

Owen Bradley, an eighth grader from Shue-Medill Middle School, thanked the committee for the opportunity.

Michelle Savage, the principal of Shue-Medill Middle School, thanked Rep. Baumbach. The almost 900 students at the school were involved and had a vote in the process; a smaller group of students helped to write the legislation.

Casey Montigney, an instructional coach at Shue-Medill Middle School, mentioned that the shirts worn by those participating in public comment were designed by students at the school and the opportunity to write the bill was informative for the students.

Chair Longhurst opened the committee to virtual public comment.

Chair Longhurst asked Natali Gogoladze if they were aware of the legislative process, and explained the roll call process to the students from Shue-Medill Middle School.

A motion was made by Speaker Schwartzkopf and seconded by Rep. Dukes and Mitchell to release HB 390 from committee; the motion carried. Yes= 5 (Longhurst, Schwartzkopf, Mitchell, Dukes, D. Short): No= 0; Absent= 0. The bill was released from committee with a F=0, M=5, U=0 vote.

Chair Longhurst introduced **HB 375, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE RACIAL EQUITY CONSORTIUM.**

Rep. Bolden, sponsor of the bill, stated that HB 375 is part of the outcome of the African American Task Force that was created under SB 260 in the 150th Legislative Session, of which Rep. Bolden served as the chair. The African American Task Force and its subcommittees approved recommendations, including the creation of a Racial Equity consortium. HB 375 would establish the Racial Equity consortium to help eliminate disparities and inequities for people of color in the state of Delaware, and would recommend legislation to address these disparities and inequities to state agencies. It would allow the work of the African American Task Force to continue. Rep. Bolden mentioned that the fiscal note for HB 375 is based on the same fiscal note that exists for the creation of the Redding Consortium. The Racial Equity Consortium would be run out of Delaware State University and would be worked on by undergraduate students at the university.

Chair Longhurst opened the committee to public comment.

Melissa Hopkins from Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement voiced DANA's support for the bill and mentioned that the nonprofits DANA works with are steeped in diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

Raina Allen from the Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative, powered by the United Way of Delaware, has the goal of eliminating policies that enable systemic racism in Delaware and work to address historic wrongs. Raina stated that the African American Task Force was necessary, but not sufficient, and their work needs to be continued through this bill. This will allow for longer-term investment in racial equity issues and will give more governing authority to act upon the task force recommendations, as other state bodies may not make movements on these recommendations.

Coby Owens, on behalf of the Delaware NAACP and Building People Power, thanked Rep. Bolden and fully supported the bill.

Chair Longhurst opened the committee to virtual public comment.

A motion was made by Speaker Schwartzkopf and seconded by Rep. D. Short to release HB 375 from committee; the motion carried. Yes= 5 (Longhurst, Schwartzkopf, Mitchell, Dukes, D. Short): No= 0; Absent= 0. The bill was released from committee with a F=0, M=5, U=0 vote.

Chair Longhurst introduced **HB 411, AN ACT PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE II OF THE DELAWARE CONSTITUTION RELATING TO LIMITATIONS ON THE TIME AND FREQUENCY OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS.**

Speaker Schwartzkopf, sponsor of the bill, stated that HB 411 would amend the Delaware Constitution to change the end time of the last day of legislative session to 5:00 p.m. instead of midnight. While the ending ceremony would take place at 5:00 p.m., work could continue beyond that if needed. Speaker

Schwartzkopf was concerned about safety for the staff and legislators leaving at such late hours of the evening as the law currently stands.

Chair Longhurst opened the committee to public comment and virtual public comment.

A motion was made by Rep. Mitchell and seconded by Rep. D. Short to release HB 411 from committee; the motion carried. Yes= 5 (Longhurst, Schwartzkopf, Mitchell, Dukes, D. Short); No= 0; Absent= 0. The bill was released from committee with a F=0, M=5, U=0 vote.

Chair Longhurst introduced **HB 101, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE BY PROVIDING FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE OFFICIAL REPTILE OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE.**

Chair Longhurst explained that the bill designates the green turtle as the state reptile and will be enacted for one year. Rep. Smyk, sponsor of the bill, could not attend the committee meeting.

Chair Longhurst opened the committee to public comment and virtual public comment.

A motion was made by Rep. D. Short and seconded by Speaker Schwartzkopf to release HB 101 from committee; the motion carried. Yes= 5 (Longhurst, Schwartzkopf, Mitchell, Dukes, D. Short); No= 0; Absent= 0. The bill was released from committee with a F=0, M=5, U=0 vote.

Chair Longhurst stated that **HB 351, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLES 11 AND 15 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**, was asked to be deferred to a future committee meeting.

Chair Longhurst introduced **HJR 7, DIRECTING THE STATE TO CONDUCT PANDEMIC AFTER- ACTION REVIEWS AND CONTINUE COVID-19 PANDEMIC MITIGATION EFFORTS.**

Rep. Baumbach, sponsor of the joint resolution, mentioned that it has broad support and it will signify commitment to after-action reviews to evaluate state responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Lines 21-22 state that the General Assembly and Governor will act based on after-action reviews to understand how Delaware handled this pandemic, and it would demonstrate commitment of the General Assembly to learn from this experience and be better prepared in the future.

Rep. Mitchell asked if there is a timeline for the after-action reviews.

Rep. Baumbach confirmed that there are timelines, but they were not written into the language of the joint resolution.

Chair Longhurst thanked Rep. Baumbach for his work on HJR 7.

Chair Longhurst opened the committee to public comment and virtual public comment.

A motion was made by Rep. Mitchell seconded by Rep. Dukes to release HJR 7 from committee; the motion carried. Yes= 5 (Longhurst, Schwartzkopf, Mitchell, Dukes, D. Short): No= 0; Absent= 0. The bill was released from committee with a F=0, M=5, U=0 vote.

Chair Longhurst adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Speaker's List

Raina Allen, Director of Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative

Owen Bradley, student at Shue-Medill Middle School

Natali Gogoladze, student at Shue-Medill Middle School

Melissa Hopkins, Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement

Casey Montigney, instructional coach at Shue-Medill Middle School

Coby Owens, Delaware NAACP and Building People Power

Elijah Roman, student at Shue-Medill Middle School

Michelle Savage, principal of Shue-Medill Middle School

Olivia White, student at Shue-Medill Middle School