



State of Connecticut  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

COMPETITIVE ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR PRICING TASK FORCE

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

11:00 AM in Room 1B of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 AM by Task Force Co-Chairwoman, Rep. Kathy Tallarita, 58<sup>th</sup> District.

The following task force members were present:

Rep. Kathy Tallarita, 58<sup>th</sup> District; Edward Berthiaume, Mark Abrahamson; Chief James Cetran; Ed Crowley; Brian Durand (OPM); David Leon; Dr. Stanley McMillen; Rep. Rosa Rebimbas, 70<sup>th</sup> District; Commissioner William Rubenstein (DCP); Commissioner Kevin B. Sullivan (DRS); Rep. Mary Fritz, 90<sup>th</sup> District

Absent were: Dr. Ian Ayres; Rep. Sandy Nafis, 27<sup>th</sup> District; David Rutigliano

Rep. Tallarita thanked everyone for attending. She especially thanked Dr. McMillen for his work on researching many of the topics raised by the task force. His research, she said, is a great starting place for the task force's discussion.

Rep. Tallarita reviewed the timeline of the task force's remaining activities.

Commissioner Sullivan suggested that the final report contain a menu of items with a list of task force members' opinions pro or con for each item. Rep. Tallarita remarked that she would like the four main subject areas that were outlined in the task force's mission

to form the outline of the report. Brian Durand stated that, within each major topic area, there may be need to include sub items or bullets. Rep. Rebimbas commented that the task force should include all information gathered or submitted to date. The task force ought to present both sides, she said, noting that Dr. McMillen's research has conclusions that some task force members do not necessarily share. Brian Durand stated that the report could include conclusions and he would be open to including members' comments.

Rep. Tallarita reminded task force members that they should include their comments on each item and submit them by November 21st.

Commissioner Sullivan stated that the report should be written in such a way that the reader can draw their own conclusions. Polling task force members and noting their opinions for each subject area, he said, is cumbersome. Brian Durand remarked that members should have an opportunity to submit their own conclusions. Commissioner Sullivan noted that on each of the many task forces he has served on over the years, there was always an opportunity to offer personal statements or a minority report that was appended to the final task force report. Rep. Rebimbas stated that she feels simply submitting someone's comments will limit an even exchange of ideas. She wondered if the task force ought to meet after December 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the draft report.

Commissioner Rubenstein stated that the task force already agreed at the October meeting that the final report will not include any recommendations. He said he would like to provide a personal statement, especially after expending large amounts of time in committee and subcommittee. He would appreciate the opportunity to submit an addendum with his ideas and comments. Commissioner Rubenstein stated that it would be a shame to sit through four months of work to simply just be "catalogers of information".

Dr. McMillen stated that our charge in Public Act 12-17 asks us to note the impacts, both positive and negative, to consumers and the liquor industry in the state. David Leon remarked that he would just like to put forward the task force's research along with a summary of the subcommittees' work. Rep. Rebimbas stated that the task force ought to review, examine, and analyze each of the issues under our charge as a whole, rather than as individuals. Personal statements are not an analysis, she said. Brian Durand stated that OLR can use members' comments to form the report. Commissioner Rubenstein stated that he agrees with Commissioner Sullivan and would like to submit a minority report, if one is warranted.

Commissioner Sullivan stated that the task force should review the draft report from OLR and then decide whether to include minority reports, if they are needed. He said that the draft may address some of the items that members may have wanted to put forward in their own personal statements. Commissioner Rubenstein remarked that staff should also note the public safety and economic impact for each item, as previously mentioned by Dr. McMillen.

Rep. Tallarita reviewed the main subject areas that will be included in the report. Additionally, issues like beer sales in convenience stores, depletion allowances, public safety, and economic impacts will also be noted, where appropriate.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rep. Tallarita announced that the next task force meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM in Hearing Room 1B.

There being no further discussion, a motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 AM.

Stephen A. Palmer  
Clerk