



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

**COMPETITIVE ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR PRICING TASK FORCE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, December 12, 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; Dr. Ian Ayres; Rep. Sandy Nafis, 27<sup>th</sup> District; David Rutigliano

Absent were:

Rep. Tallarita thanked everyone for attending the final meeting of the task force.

Rep. Tallarita opened the floor for members' discussion on the draft of the final report. She stated that if any panel member has any additional comments that they would like to see in the appendix of the report to send them to the Clerk by the close of business today. Commissioner Sullivan remarked that he supports the Chair's comment and thanked her for the opportunity to add additional input.

Rep. Fritz commended OLR and OFA staff for all of their hard work in putting the final task force report together. She asked the Chair if the next step is for the final report to be submitted to the General Law Committee? Chairwoman Tallarita responded that that is correct. The proper procedure is for the task force to submit its final report to the General Assembly, who will forward it to the General Law Committee as it is the appropriate committee of cognizance for alcohol and consumer issues.

Rep. Rebimbas echoed Rep. Fritz's comments in praise of OLR and OFA. She asked if the additional comments called for by the Chair would be included in the appendix? She stated that she is comfortable with the report as it is currently drafted, however, she is not okay with further comments in the appendix. Rep. Tallarita stated that to assist the General Law Committee with their future deliberations on these issues that it is incumbent on the task force to make sure that all available documents be on file with the committee. She stated that any additional resource material received would supplement the testimony already on file with the Clerk. Rep. Rebimbas asked why it would be necessary to supplement testimony from the September 12th meeting? For example, Appendix D simply lists all of the documents received thus far, all of which was reviewed and considered by panel members. She stated that there would be no opportunity to review any new material and offer comments, since today is our final meeting. Rep. Rebimbas suggested that the task force should remove personal comments from the appendix. Commissioner Sullivan remarked that the task force could utilize an extended deadline to fine tune their final comments to be inserted into the appendix. Rep. Tallarita stated that that would be acceptable since the task force has until January 1, 2013 to finish its work and submit a report. Commissioner Rubenstein stated that he agreed with Commissioner Sullivan regarding the need for more time to draft comments on the final report. He feels comfortable including them in the appendix. He suggested that the deadline to submit comments be extended to one week from today's meeting.

David Leon raised his concern that personal comments were included in the body of the report. His confusion was cleared up by the Chair as the final hard copy of the report, with its appendix, has slightly different page numbers than the rough draft sent to task force members last week. David Leon thanked the Chair for the clarification.

Commissioner Sullivan noted that each panel member will have differing opinions on the various subjects in the report. It is vital to future readers that we cite all available information, he said.

Rep. Nafis stated that she supports the extension of time for additional member comments that was proposed by Commissioner Rubenstein. She thanked the staff for all their hard work. She stated that she has learned a lot while serving on the task force.

Brian Durand stated that he is fine with an extension of time for additional comments. Not all of his comments are clear because they reference some materials that did not make it into the body of the final report and would like the chance to clarify his remarks

in the appendix. He also stated that he supports the final product pending before the task force.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rubenstein and seconded by Rep. Fritz. The motion reads as follows: "Move to accept the task force report as drafted and 1) include a list of all documents considered by the committee in the appendix, and 2) permit panel members to submit their comments to the clerk by close of business on December 19th, 2012, to be attached in the appendix; and 3) submit the report to the General Assembly on Friday, December 21st, 2012".

Rep. Rebimbas asked why we were not highlighting the key areas that the task force previously identified, such as public safety and economic impact, on page 3? Commissioner Rubenstein stated that since the task force was not putting forth specific recommendations, the topics are less important to the overall report construct. Commissioner Sullivan noted that the majority of the report is informational and that the context of the task force's discussions is vital to those who might read the report. That is why including all of the members' comments in the appendix is appropriate: it gives readers a flavor of each task force members' views.

David Leon stated he is fine with extending the deadline to submit members' comments. He takes issue with adding any new material, echoing Rep. Rebimbas' earlier concern that panel members will not have a chance to review them before they are included.

Commissioner Sullivan stated that it would be unfortunate if task force members' added comments were simply in response to comments already offered by other task force members. What is needed, he said, are comments on the body of the report already drafted, which most members seem to support. Rep. Rebimbas remarked that the report as drafted is sufficient. David Rutigliano stated that the task force should vote to approve the report as drafted and finish its work today. Brian Durand reiterated that personal comments should be in the appendix. Commissioner Rubenstein stated that panel members have worked in good faith and approached the work of the task force with professionalism. Members' comments ought to be included in the appendix and the appendix should be approved with the report, he said.

Rep. Nafis asked that Commissioner Rubenstein repeat his motion for clarification.

Dr. Ayres stated that he supports the report, especially with no recommendations being put forth. Given the task force members' many differing viewpoints, he said the information gathered to date is a good starting point for future discussion. Rep. Fritz stated that we are muddying the waters with additional outside source materials. Commissioner Sullivan stated that it seems that the task force is debating how much information NOT to submit to the General Assembly. Any new materials that are submitted, he said, are not going to change his opinions on the subjects covered in the report. Rep. Rebimbas stated that she agrees with Rep. Fritz's point and will vote to oppose the current motion. She stated that the deadlines previously outlined by the chairs at prior meetings were specific and sufficient. Rep. Rebimbas feels that the task

force should leave out personal comments from the appendix and only list the documents received to date. The General Law Committee will have additional opportunities to review and gather additional information during the next legislative session.

Commissioner Rubenstein clarified his motion to say: materials submitted late will not be included since they were not received by the deadline set forth by the chairs, and the appendix should include a list of all documents received and considered by the task force, as noted by Rep. Rebimbas. To be clear, Rep. Tallarita stated that no new outside materials will be included in the appendix.

There being no further discussion, the Chair asked the Clerk to call the roll. On a roll call vote, the motion was passed.

Rep. Tallarita thanked the non-partisan staff in the Offices of Legislative Research and Fiscal Analysis for all their hard work. In addition, she thanked the clerk for all his work and wished him well in his future endeavor. Rep. Tallarita explained that members will have until the close of business on Wednesday, December 19th to submit their comments to be included in the appendix. Also, staff will submit the task force's final report to the General Assembly on Friday, December 21st. Once the final report is submitted, the task force will statutorily terminate.

There being no further business before the task force, a motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 AM.

Stephen A. Palmer  
Clerk