

OAE0 Legislative Committee Meeting
July 27th, 2019 1:30 PM
Via Zoom

Tim Burton, chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Secretary Deb Sneddon conducted the roll call. A quorum was present.

Bill Rich moved to accept the minutes of the May meeting. Sarah Greathouse seconded the motion. All voted in favor of accepting the minutes. Motion carried.

Guests on the call were Representatives Bride Rose Sweeney, Paula Hicks-Hudson and Sarah Cherry, legal counsel for the House Democratic Caucus.

After brief introductions and background on House Bill 687. Representative Hicks-Hudson took over the question and answer period since Sarah Cherry had to exit the meeting. She gave a summary of the highlights and concerns; 17 year old workers, online absentee ballot requests, PPE being purchased with CARES money, postage being paid, and ballots being able to be postmarked on Election Day.

Chairs LaVera Scott and Tim Burton opened the discussion.

Sarah Greenhouse mentioned the abilities and logistics of the timeline.

With the disarray that is currently happening in the statehouse the Representatives agreed that legislative action would probably not be happening but that Secretary LaRose could perhaps pay the postage or introduce the online application portal without legislative action.

They asked what would be the stumbling blocks for staffing and administration.

It was mentioned that since online applications have not been rolled out yet, that training would be needed, the requirements on the technical side, plus the funding issues.

Aaron informed us that there has been a request for a formal opinion of the Attorney General on the request for additional drop boxes.

Before leaving the meeting, both representatives offered assistance on whatever we may need as far as poll workers or PPE and stated that they would like to keep the communication lines open.

Schools were brought up as ideal polling locations because of concerns with space and ADA requirements.

If schools were to be closed on Election Day, it would be an immense help in recruiting poll workers.

They thanked us for our work and once again offered their voice as legislators. They left the call at this time.

Aaron brought up review of Sub SB 191. The draft was sent to everyone ahead of the meeting.

The four changes in the substitute version were: changing the last day to mail a ballot from 3 days to 7 days, it also allows 17 year old juniors to serve as poll workers.

It identifies who can change the time and the place of the election. It also makes the requirements of the application process mirror the online registration process.

Even if we could only achieve a few of the items it would be progress, but with the upheaval in Columbus and the timeline of implementation of an online system; there was only a glimmer of hope that any changes would be made ahead of November.

LaVera addressed the timing of the mailing of applications and hoped that the mailing could be done earlier to prevent unnecessary calls to the elections office.

Ed Leonard wanted to be sure that these topics remain on our agenda. even if they are only able to be implemented at a later time.

Aaron urged the members of the association to keep talking to their senators.

Aaron continued on to lead the discussion on permanent absentee requests for people with a medical or mental disability that would remain active or on file for the calendar year when they were submitted.

There was verbal, informal agreement on a suggestion that everyone should be able to have this ability.

There was a brief update on winter conference and discussion on creative ways to carry out the conference. Aaron reminded everyone to complete the survey that had been sent out via email.

Without much feedback on the previous items, Jane Hanley motioned to adjourn the meeting. Bill Rich seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Sneddon, Secretary