

MINUTES
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 4, 2011

Attendance:

Thomas Duggar, Co-Chair
Maria Gonzalez, Co-Chair
Heather Apicella, Vice-Chair
Ron Bornstein, Vice-Chair
Susan Savard, Secretary
Patricia Alexander
Abigail Beebe
Terry Fogel
Michael Gilden
Carin Green
Amy Hamlin
Amy Hickman
Rana Holz
GM Norberto Katz
Patricia Kuendig
Judge Ray McNeal
Robert Merlin

Ashley Myers
Henry Pennypacker
Monica Pigna
Carin Porras
Kim Rommel-Enright
Christopher Rumbold
Scott Rubin
Robin Scher
Jodi Seitlin
Robyn Vines
Julia Wyda
Adam Zborowski
Frank Zilaitis

Excused Absence:

Elisha Roy
GM Barbara Beilly
Rob Boyd
Matt Capstraw
Amy Hamlin
GM Rob Jones
Sam Jubran
Belinda Lazzara
David Manz
Robert Merlin
Shannon Novey
David Riggs
Scott Rubin
Sarah Sullivan
Debra Welch

Guests:

Diane Kirigin, Chair
Nelson Diaz

I. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER** - Meeting called to Order by Maria Gonzalez and Thomas Duggar at 12:03 p.m..

II. **UPDATE OF SECTION BILLS:**

- a. Thomas advised that the Keeping Children Safe Bill and UFISA Bill are both moving along.
- b. Thomas is going up to the Legislature this afternoon. Nelson Diaz advised that we are very close in the Senate on the Keeping Children Safe Bill. Nelson said this is a “hale marry” because of the existing issues in the civil justice committee with the alimony bill, this may have a better chance now of getting passed.
- c. Nelson stated that UFISA is moving along as well.

III. **RAPID RESPONSE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a. Thomas advised that Rob Boyd not available; however, he has reported that his Subcommittee is monitoring their respective Bills.

- b. Thomas advised that Robert Kohlman's Bill died because the sponsor resigned in order to run for commission in Miami Dade.
- c. Heather Apicella advised that with regard to SB240/HB101 it was in the Budget Committee as of 4/2 (the Committee is still monitoring). HB773/SB1652 has died(will continue to monitor). SB1650/HB621 the Subcommittee Reconvened to take a vote, and the recommendation is no position.
- d. Magistrate Norberto Katz advised that SB206 (DV against pets), has been referred to the Budget Committee. SB1654 (which is Rep. Flores' Bill, referred to Criminal Justice Subcommittee (Thomas advised that he did not believe this would be moving, but asked the subcommittee to keep monitoring).

IV. **HB 1475/SB 1978**–

- a. Magistrate Diane Kirigin thanked Edgar, Nelson, Elisha, Thomas, Maria, Tom Sasser and Executive Committee. Magistrate Kirigin explained that there have been a number of meetings between these individuals which necessitated the Executive Committee (Carin Porras, Elisha Roy, David Manz and Peter Gladstone) to make themselves available on little notice. Norberto Katz has been involved as the Chair of the Ad Hoc Alimony Committee and I want to thank him as well. Magistrate Kirigin explained that about 8 years ago we had a history of monitoring the legislation “coming down the pike” and a lot of work was re-crafting legislation which was less than good for the families of Florida. The Section was responsible for enacting the Alimony Statute (which was last year's bill); however, because of our success in getting this created we have meet some opposition. The Executive Committee determined that it was in the best interest of the Section to re-craft something that we can live with; this is the best of what we have and what we can do. This legislation went through the Committee with our changes. This is the best of what we can hope for. Thomas Duggar has been working on this diligently..
- b. Thomas Duggar advised that working with the sponsors is probably the best option. Thomas met with the Staff on Friday and it was a very productive meeting. Thomas thinks that over the last two weeks we have averted a large disaster on multiple fronts. This issue has been handled very well by Nelson, and the Executive Committee involved.
- c. Nelson provided his recommendations on how best to proceed. The bill is now out of civil justice. This will be up at the next judiciary meeting in the Senate next week.
- d. Magistrate Kirigin advised that as a result of this action, we were able to move Keeping Children Safe and UIFSA out of the first committee in the House. Hours and hours were spent on this issue, and on very very short notice. Diane thanked Nelson and Edger for working on this over the past few weekends, etc.

V. **NEXT WEEK'S MEETING:**

- a. Diane Kirigin asked whether or not we will be having a meeting on Friday or make a later determination based upon what happens this week? Thomas advised that it is likely that we will not have a meeting this Friday.

VI. **MEETING ADJOURNED:**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 12:35pm.