

**VETERANS & SENIORS COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Veterans & Seniors Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on April 17, 2007.

**Members Present:**

Legislator Steven H. Stern, Chairman  
Legislator Jack Eddington, Vice-Chair  
Legislator Cameron Alden  
Legislator Jon Cooper  
Legislator Jay H. Schneiderman

**Also In Attendance:**

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk  
Verna Donnan, Budget Review Office  
Deborah Harris, Aide to Legislator Stern  
Catherine Stark, Aide to Legislator Schneiderman  
Holly Rhodes-Teague, Director/Office for the Aging  
Tom Ronayne, Director of Veterans Service Agency/Human Services Div.  
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader  
Debra Alloncius, Legislative Rep for AME  
All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken By:**

Diana Kraus - Court Stenographer

**(THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 11:53 A.M.)**

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Will the Committee on Vets and Seniors come to order. I'd ask everybody to please rise and join in the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Cooper.

**(SALUTATION)**

I'd ask everybody to please remain standing for a quick moment of silence and keeping all of our very brave men and women fighting for us overseas in your thoughts and prayers. Also, we'll take a moment to remember those fallen and those injured fighting for their lives in this most recent tragedy at Virginia Tech.

**(MOMENT OF SILENCE)**

Thank you. We have a very short agenda today and we have transportation awaiting us. So before we go through the formal agenda, Holly, anything?

**MS. RHODES-TEAGUE:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

All right. Let the record reflect that Holly from Office of the Aging was here and we'll move on. Tom?

**MR. RONAYNE:**

Nothing.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Anything? Let the record reflect that Director Roynane was in attendance as well. Both directors were looking good and we're going to move on to our agenda. We have today memorializing resolutions.

**MR04. Memorializing Resolution in Support of the Mature Worker Employment Training Program.**

I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Second by Legislator Cooper.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

On the motion. What is it?

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

On the motion. Counsel?

**MR. NOLAN:**

This is a bill -- basically it would create a program to provide resources to employment training service providers to train, retrain and retain older workers, 55 and older.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Which would be specifically helpful in training those perhaps current soon to be retirees in pursuing a second career and giving them the skills they need to do that.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Who would be providing the funding and training, the State?

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

This is the State.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

It's not going to be an unfunded mandate coming back to us.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

No.

**MR. NOLAN:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

And even though it's not in the title, there is an Assembly bill?

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

There's an Assembly bill and a Senate bill. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? **(Vote: 5-0-0-0).**

**LEG. COOPER:**

Cosponsor, please.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

**MR05. Memorializing Resolution in support of Tax Abatement for Residential Real Property owned by Senior Citizens.** I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Second by Legislator Cooper. On the motion, Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Is this in addition to the Senior Tax Abatement Programs that every town offers?

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Yes. This is an Assembly bill that would give communities the option to provide senior citizens with property tax credit for those who provide volunteer services to their communities.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay, for volunteer services.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Right. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0).**

**MR06. Memorializing Resolution in support of life long learning centers within the New York State University system.** I'm make a motion to approve.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Second by Legislator Cooper.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Just a brief explanation.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Counsel? Well, I can do it. There is an Assembly bill and a Senate bill which would establish life long learning centers at the State's community and four year colleges with the aim of serving adults 50 years of age or older who are seeking to pursue purposeful work, remain civically engaged, and continue their education.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

And that's free, those programs?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Free to them or free to us?

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Again, it would be State. It would be within the State university system.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So free to us.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Free to us. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**.

**MR07. Memorializing Resolution in support of State Legislation to establish a statewide Intergenerational Educational and Mentoring Service Program. (Assembly Bill A5564 and Senate Bill S3059).** I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Second by Legislator Cooper. Anybody on the motion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**

These, by the way, are a package of State bills that were proposed all at one time by both the Assembly and the Senate by Chairmen of both communities, the Aging Committees.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Mr. Arkin comes before us all the time talking about this kind of intergenerational thing.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

08 sounds like 04.

**MR08. Memorializing Resolution in support of New York State Legislation to establish the Mature Worker Employment Training Program (Assembly Bill A5565 and Senate Bill S3058).**

**LEG. COOPER:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Cooper.

**LEG. EDDINGTON:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Second by Vice Chair Eddington. On the motion?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Well, it sounds a lot like 04, so what is the difference?

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

This is, again, both an Assembly and a Senate Bill to amend the New York Elder Law in relation to establishing the Mature Worker Employment Training Program, which would include the creation of a 19 member Task Force in the State Office of the Aging to identify and address legal provisions that may limit opportunities for mature works, identify best practices in the private sector for hiring, retaining and retraining mature workers, serve as a clearing house for such information, and assess the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of programs that the State has implemented to hire, retain, and retrain mature workers. So it looks like one is an opportunity and provides training for seniors themselves, and this is a review of State systems in place.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

All in favor? Opposed? Any abstentions? Motion carries. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**. And that's it.

For the record, members of the committee and staff members, anybody else who would like to join us, we have transportation awaiting us to take us to the Veterans Facility in Northport. We are scheduled to take a formal tour of the facility as a committee and we are looking forward to meeting with veterans and those that provide critical services for them at that facility. I think we are all going to learn an awful lot on this field trip. And with that, I'll take a motion to adjourn.

**LEG. EDDINGTON:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Motion by Vice Chair Eddington.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN STERN:**

Second by Legislator Cooper. We are adjourned.

**(THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 12:00 A.M.)**