



State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives

Rodney Pratt, Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Republican Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Pratt and Committee Member Reps. Liebson, Miller and Summerville. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Custis, Fedeli and Watkins. Also present were President Skigen and Reps. Moore, Ryan and Zelinsky; Thomas Madden, Economic Development Director; Kathleen Bordelon and Laura Roberts, Silversource; Todd Yudain; Marti Etter; Bonnie Wattles; Mike Moran and Angie Durell (see the [public hearing sign-in sheet](#)).

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. SC29.040	ORDINANCE <u>for public hearing and final adoption</u> ; Establishing a Stamford Arts and Culture Commission. 12/02/16 – Submitted by Pres. Skigen and Rep. Zelinsky 03/06/17 – Approved by Committee for publication	Approved 4-0-0

Chair Pratt opened the public hearing. Todd Yudain; Marti Etter; Bonnie Wattles; Mike Moran and Angie Durell all spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance. Mr. Udain read a letter from Lou Ursone in favor of the ordinance. There being no other members of the public wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

President Skigen explained that this ordinance had come out of a Community Catalyst discussion concerning the arts.

A motion to approve this ordinance for final adoption was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4-0-0 (Reps. Pratt, Liebson, Miller and Summerville in favor).

Under a Suspension of Rules:

A motion to suspend the rules to take up Item No. 3 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4-0-0 (Reps. Pratt, Liebson, Miller and Summerville in favor).

3. [SC29.043](#) RESOLUTION; Supporting the Stamford Innovation District. **Approved 4-0-0**
03/23/17 – Submitted by Thomas Madden

Mr. Madden explained that the resolution is needed in support of an application to the State for an Innovation District grant, which is due on April 1st. He explained that the State allocated \$25 million for projects throughout the State after GE left. The Innovation District will be a network to support new businesses and technology. The State requires the district to be located near the train station. This is a competitive grant. The State will select 5 cities to split \$5 million the first year. They are hoping to get \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 and have also sought matching funds from local corporations.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Madden stated that this District is in three phases and will encompass public and private land. There is no requirement to participate and there is no tax abatement (although the State may provide a rent abatement). The district will have an implementation team, comprised of entrepreneurs, local businesses, non-profits, anchor institutions and government, but government will play a small role (as required by the State) and the Board of Representatives will not be able to approve the members of the team.

The State has approved the submission of the resolution after the April 3rd Board meeting, so long as the committee approves the resolution. This project has had a very fast timetable and they were not able to submit the resolution earlier.

A motion to approve this resolution was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4-0-0 (Reps. Pratt, Liebson, Miller and Summerville in favor).

2. SC29.042 REVIEW; Preparation for Growth of Number of Senior Residents in Stamford. **Report Made**
03/01/17 – Submitted by Rep. Pratt

Ms. Bordelon distributed the [attached materials](#) about Silversource and reviewed the attached power point presentation about aging in Stamford, Fairfield County and Connecticut.

Chair Pratt adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rodney Pratt, Chair