



Legislation

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final

Committee Chair: Colin Smith

800 Michaelan Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Monday, February 28, 2022

1:00 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

The County Board will meet pursuant to Chapter 417 of New York State Laws of 2021, allowing public bodies to meet and take action without permitting in-person public access to meetings and authorizes such meetings and public hearings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided the public has the ability to view or listen and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed. To access the meeting, please visit: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com>. With a quorum present, Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.

Others in Attendance: BOL: Legislator Erika Pierce, Legislator Jewel Williams-Johnson, Melanie Montalto, Anand Singh

Present: Committee Chair Smith, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi and Legislator Maher

Absent: Legislator Johnson

Remote: Legislator Borgia, Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Shimsky

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [RES-2022-26](#) **PH - County Clerk ID Law Amendment**

A Public Hearing on "A LOCAL LAW of the Westchester County Board of Legislators amending Section 265.181 of the Laws of Westchester County to allow more flexibility for proving identification." [Public Hearing set for March 28, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.].
LOCAL LAW INTRO: 2022-53.

Submitted by COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

Mr. Idoni spoke about the history and successes of the Westchester County personal identification card, noting that the need for the proposed legislation was made clear several years ago after New York City began a similar program and began advertising it heavily. In the past the requirements they had to get these cards were too lax and needed strengthening so they utilized a points system similar to the NYS Department of Motor Vehicle, albeit less restrictive. The program has seen steady growth over the past few years, however a challenge has arisen where non-citizen immigrants are unable to get these cards due to the often difficult task of getting their birth certificates from their home countries. Mr. Idoni shared a document showing the assignment of point values for different forms of proof on the application and a discussion ensued.

A discussion ensued on the merits of this legislation with the consensus being that it was a

positive thing that would help both County residents and the Office of the County Clerk in facilitating successful applications for these cards. Legislator Maher raised concerns about what would happen in the future if a County Clerk of a less cooperative nature was elected, believing that the points system should be codified in the proposed legislation. Mr. Idoni said he wasn't opposed to that in the future, but at present this was the single-most pressing issue as it brings the entire process to a halt. A discussion ensued on whether not codifying the points system would cause issues in the future, with Legislator Maher believing that it could, and the remaining committee members believing that for now the legislation could be passed as is since it doesn't alter the County Clerk's powers in any way, instead simply removing an unnecessary, burdensome provision. Mr. Idoni stated that this legislation wasn't arbitrarily created and was the result of their experiences, combined with feedback from a number of advocacy groups who shared the same concern. Legislator Gashi stated that after this legislation is adopted, they can consider if/what any additional legislative changes would look like, but for now there is no reason to hold this up.

On motion of Legislator Maher, seconded by Borgia, the above item was signed by committee to the Board of Legislators committee, due back on 3/7/2022. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Smith, Legislator Barr, Borgia, Legislator Boykin, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, Legislator Maher and Legislator Shimsky

2. **LL - Providing Identification Amendment**

A LOCAL LAW amending Section 265.181 of the Laws of Westchester County to allow more flexibility for providing identification.

Submitted by BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

Guest: Tim Idoni, Westchester County Clerk

Please see the previous item for discussion on the legislation.

On motion of Legislator Maher, seconded by Borgia, the above item was signed by committee to the Board of Legislators committee, due back on 3/7/2022. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Smith, Legislator Barr, Borgia, Legislator Boykin, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, Legislator Maher and Legislator Shimsky

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Maher, seconded by Legislator Shimsky, the Committee adjourned at 1:43 PM.