

Chairman Leff called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and attendance was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Blendu moved the minutes of April 2, 2008 be approved. Without objection, the minutes were approved as distributed.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

SB 1508 - provisions; Arizona temporary worker program – DO PASS

Leah Birk, Commerce and Economic Development Research Analyst, explained SB 1508.

Senator Arzberger, bill sponsor, testified in support of SB 1508 and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Sheridan Bailey, representing himself, testified in support of SB 1508. He answered questions posed by the Committee and submitted a handout entitled Slow Road Ahead (Attachment A).

Sandy Doty, representing herself, testified in opposition to SB 1508 and answered questions posed by the Committee.

David Jones, President/CEO, Arizona Contractors Association, testified in support of SB 1508.

Todd Sanders, Vice President of Public Affairs - Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, testified in support of SB 1508 and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Joe Sigg, Director of Government Relations, Arizona Farm Bureau, testified in support of SB 1508.

Barry Aarons, Arizona Tourism Alliance, Tucson Convention and Visitor's Bureau, testified in support of SB 1508.

Farrell Quinlan, West Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance, testified in support of SB 1508.

Glenn Hamer, President/CEO, Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, testified in support of SB 1508 and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Leff announced the individuals who registered their position on the bill (Attachment B).

Senator Blendu moved SB 1508 be returned with a DO PASS recommendation. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 6-0-2 (Attachment 1).

In explanation of his vote, Senator Tibshraeny stated, "I think there are some good things in this legislation and I also think there are some things that need a little work. We heard from some speakers, we heard first from someone from my district, and I think we have some issues that need to be addressed but I think if we are sitting around waiting for the Federal Government I will have great, great, great grandkids because they have no capability to solve any problems, it appears, in this country so we, as a legislative body, have to continue to push forward on these issues so with that in

mind, and knowing there will be more work, especially some of the issues you raised Madam Chairman, I will vote aye.”

In explanation of her vote, Senator Leff said, “I clearly have reservations about the bill, about the provisions of the bill, not the concept of a legitimate, legal way for people to come to this country to work when they are needed. I am going to vote aye today on the bill but I am going to run an amendment on the floor to require health insurance be provided. If we are going to go through this kind of process to bring people here from another country, and it clearly is a process that could be expensive if you look at the language of the bill, then I think if we are going to do that then we also have to make sure that people are not a burden to the other tax payers in the State. With that today I will vote aye and I hope that amendment is offered on the floor, and I will determine how I will vote after that depending on what happens with that amendment.”

HB 2590 - school bonds; computer hardware - FAILED

Dawn Wallace, Senate Education Research Analyst, explained HB 2590 and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Representative Crandall, bill sponsor, testified in support of HB 2590 and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Mike Williams, Apple Computers, City of Tempe, testified in support of HB 2590.

Representative Tobin, District 1, testified in support of HB 2590.

Justin Olson, Research Analyst, Arizona Tax Research Association, testified in opposition to HB 2590.

Senator Leff announced the individuals who registered their position on the bill (Attachment B).

Senator Blendu moved HB 2590 be returned with a DO PASS recommendation. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 3-3-2 (Attachment 2).

In explanation of his vote, Senator Chevront stated, “I agree that we need to make sure that our schools are technologically advanced but if this bill were to have been a state-wide property tax to pay for all students, I could support it but individually, where it is only for certain schools, I just can not support it and I vote no.”

In explanation of his vote, Senator Blendu said, “This is how schools get funded. I do not know how they do it in Texas but this is nonsense and I have heard, every year in the legislature, we do not even have crayons and books in the classroom yet so until we can solve that problem, I vote no.”

HB 2695 - spirituous liquor; minors; unlicensed gatherings – DO PASS AMENDED

Sheila Gholkar, Commerce and Economic Development Research Intern, explained HB 2695 and the 15-line Leff amendment dated 4/8/08 at 9:11 a.m. (Attachment C)

Representative Kavanagh, bill sponsor, testified in support of HB 2695 and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Leff announced the individuals who registered their position on the bill (Attachment B).

Senator Blendu moved HB 2695 be returned with a DO PASS recommendation.

Senator Blendu moved the 15-line Leff amendment dated 4/8/08 at 9:11 a.m. be ADOPTED. The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

Senator Blendu moved HB 2695 be returned with an AS AMENDED, DO PASS recommendation. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 5-0-3 (Attachment 3).

HB 2160 - neighborhood preservation commission; technical correction (NOW: medical scientific engineering; funding analysis) – DO PASS AMENDED

Sheila Gholkar, Commerce and Economic Development Research Intern, explained HB 2160 and the 24-line Leff amendment dated 4/8/08 at 4:53 p.m. (Attachment D)

Senator Leff further explained HB 2160.

Senator Leff announced the individuals who registered their position on the bill (Attachment B).

Senator Blendu moved HB 2160 be returned with a DO PASS recommendation.

Senator Blendu moved the 24-line Leff amendment dated 4/8/08 at 4:53 p.m. be ADOPTED. The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

Senator Blendu moved HB 2160 be returned with an AS AMENDED, DO PASS recommendation. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 6-0-2 (Attachment 4).

HB 2828 - workers' compensation; claims – DO PASS AMENDED

Justin Weaver, Commerce and Economic Development Assistant Research Analyst, explained HB 2828 and the 3-line Leff amendment dated 4/8/08 at 12:48 p.m. (Attachment E)

Marcus Osborn, Manager of Government and Public Affairs, Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, testified in support of HB 2828.

Senator Leff announced the individuals who registered their position on the bill (Attachment B).

Senator Blendu moved HB 2828 be returned with a DO PASS recommendation.

Senator Blendu moved the 3-line Leff amendment dated 4/8/08 at 12:48 p.m. be ADOPTED. The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

Senator Blendu moved HB 2828 be returned with an AS AMENDED, DO PASS recommendation. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 5-1-2 (Attachment 5).

HB 2078 - manufactured housing office; powers - FAILED

Leah Birk, Commerce and Economic Development Research Analyst, explained the 10-line Leff strike everything amendment dated 4/7/08 at 1:06 p.m. (Attachment F)

Michael Racy, Public Nuisance Fairness Coalition, testified in support of HB 2078 and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Richard Plattner, Attorney, Arizona Trial Lawyers, testified in opposition to HB 2078 and answered questions posed by the Committee.

John Gray, Public Nuisance Fairness Coalition, testified in support of HB 2078.

Mr. Racy answered questions posed by the Committee.

Sandy Bahr, Conservation Director, Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter, testified in opposition to HB 2078 and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Leff announced the individuals who registered their position on the bill (Attachment B).

Senator Blendu moved HB 2078 be returned with a DO PASS recommendation.

Senator Blendu moved the 10-line Leff strike everything amendment dated 4/7/08 at 1:06 p.m. be ADOPTED. The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

Senator Blendu moved HB 2078 be returned with an AS AMENDED, DO PASS recommendation. The motion FAILED with a roll call vote of 2-4-2 (Attachment 6).

In explanation of her vote, Senator Allen stated, "I think this is a very poorly constructed bill. Perhaps it will be needed down the road, but the way it has been presented today, and God knows I am no friend of trial attorneys, I am going to vote no."

In explanation of his vote, Senator Chevront said, "This seems to have come out of the blue and I am sure it has good intentions but I think it needs to be worked out and it is something where everyone needs to come together and at this point I am going to vote no."

In explanation of his vote, Senator Blendu remarked, "I wish we had the afternoon for those people to sit down because I think they both have legitimate issues that are really important for public policy. I am going to vote aye and it looks like we are not going to go forward with it but I hope they sit down anyway, thank you."

HB 2356 - notification; complaint; registrar of contractors – DO PASS AMENDED / STRIKE EVERYTHING

Justin Weaver, Commerce and Economic Development Assistant Research Analyst, explained the 17 page Leff strike everything amendment dated 4/4/08 at 4:26 p.m. (Attachment G) and the 10-line Leff amendment to the strike everything amendment dated 4/8/08 at 3:48 p.m. (Attachment H)

Spencer Kamps, Deputy Director, Home Builders Association of Central Arizona, testified in support of HB 2356 and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Leff announced the individuals who registered their position on the bill (Attachment B).

Senator Blendu moved HB 2356 be returned with a DO PASS recommendation.

Senator Blendu moved the 17 page Leff strike everything amendment dated 4/4/08 at 4:26 p.m. be ADOPTED.

Senator Blendu moved the 10-line Leff amendment to the strike everything amendment dated 4/8/08 at 3:48 p.m. be ADOPTED. The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

Senator Blendu moved the 17 page Leff strike everything amendment dated 4/4/08 at 4:26 p.m. AS AMENDED, be ADOPTED. The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

Senator Blendu moved HB 2356 be returned with an AS AMENDED, DO PASS recommendation. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 6-0-2 (Attachment 7).

HB 2829 - workers' compensation; employee misconduct - FAILED

Leah Birk, Commerce and Economic Development Research Analyst, explained HB 2829 and the 2 page Leff amendment dated 4/8/08 at 4:14 p.m. (Attachment I)

Mike Colletto, Executive Director, Community Horizons, testified in opposition to HB 2829 and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Melissa Taylor, Arizona Self Insurers Association, testified in support of HB 2829.

Marcus Osborn, Manager of Government and Public Affairs, Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, testified in support of HB 2829 and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Leff announced the individuals who registered their position on the bill (Attachment B).

Senator Blendu moved HB 2829 be returned with a DO PASS recommendation.

Senator Blendu moved the 2 page Leff amendment dated 4/8/08 at 4:14 p.m. be ADOPTED. The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

Senator Blendu moved HB 2829 be returned with an AS AMENDED, DO PASS recommendation. The motion FAILED with a roll call vote of 1-5-2 (Attachment 8).

In explanation of her vote, Senator Allen stated, "I came prepared to vote for this bill today. Having listened to all of the testimony I am now a no."

In explanation of his vote, Senator Miranda said, "I thought I was going to vote for this thing and I thought it was a compromise but it does not sound like it so unfortunately I am going to vote no."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Turner
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115.
Audio archives are available at <http://www.azsenate.gov>)