



## **Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives**

Eileen Heaphy, Chair

Elise Coleman, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Monday, October 27, 2014

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Place:** Republican Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Heaphy, Vice Chair Coleman and Committee Member Reps. Day, Mitchell, Nabel, Okun, Silver and Zelinsky. Absent or excused was Committee Member Rep. Ryan. Also present were Reps. DeLuca and Fountain; Dana Lee, Law Department; Beverly Aveni, Purchasing Agent; Lou Casolo, Engineering; and Bill Forker, Assessment & Taxation.

Chair Heaphy called the meeting to order at 7:10.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
<sup>1</sup> 1. <a href="#">LR29.022</a>	ORDINANCE <u>for public hearing and final adoption</u> ; amending the Purchasing Ordinance (Code Chapter 23, Article II) 06/04/14 – Submitted by Reps. Fedeli, Day, Coppola and Fountain 06/16/14 – No Action Taken 07/21/14 –Held by Committee 08/25/14 – Report made and motions to Amend approved by Committee 09/22/14 – Approved by Committee for publication	<b>APPROVED 5-0-1</b>

Chair Heaphy opened the public hearing. There being no members of the public present wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed. Representative Zelinsky expressed his disagreement with the increases to Sections 23-18.3.B(2) and 23-18.4.A. A motion to approve this ordinance for final adoption was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-1. (Reps. Heaphy, Day, Nabel, Okun and Silver in favor; Rep. Zelinsky abstaining.)

<sup>2</sup> 2. <a href="#">LR29.029</a>	ORDINANCE <u>for publication</u> ; Amendment of Chapter 220, Article IV of the Code, Senior Citizens Tax Abatement 10/08/14 – Submitted by Rep. Fountain	<b>APPROVED 8-0-0</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:00:20

<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:06:10

Chair Heaphy stated that the Fiscal Committee worked with the Law Department to propose revisions to this Ordinance. The key revisions are the elimination of the tax deferral program, which has rarely been used and simplification of the tax abatement categories and expansion of the number of people who can qualify for the abatement. Rep. Fountain reviewed each of the changes in the document, including:

- Definition of the term “income”
- Definition of “principal residence”, including permitting property to be put in trust
- Increasing the net worth limits
- Limiting the application period and allowing the use of prior tax returns

It was noted that there is typographical error in the benefits for Married Applicants; 85,000 was corrected to 80,000.

The Committee discussed why the deferral program is unpopular. This is a pilot program in order to determine the additional cost. It is anticipated that the additional cost will be between \$440,000 and \$565,000.

A motion to approve this ordinance for publication was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote. (Reps. Heaphy, Coleman, Day, Mitchell, Nabel, Okun, Silver and Zelinsky in favor.)

Chair Heaphy adjourned the meeting at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Heaphy, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).