



State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives

Fred Pierre-Louis, Chair

Ashley Ley, Vice Chair

Committee Report DRAFT

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2025
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Pierre-Louis, Vice Chair Ley, and Committee Member Reps. Blank, Goldberg, Vandervoort, and Walston. Rep. Sanford was excused. Also in attendance were Reps. Adams, Cottrell, Figueroa, and Morson; Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health & Human Services; Mike Toma, Law Dept.; and members of the public.

Chair Pierre-Louis called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. SC31.022	REVIEW; of Resolution to Ban the Use of Toxic Biosolid as Fertilizer. 03/05/25 – Submitted by Reps. Adams	Recommit to Steering 6-0-0

Attorney Toma reviewed this item and there was discussion.

A state statute was passed in October of 2024 that bans the use of biosolids which contain PFAS that are used as fertilizer or any type of soil amendment. PFAS are perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, which are long lasting chemicals, the components of which break down slowly. The ban covers the entire state of Connecticut.

Attorney Toma does not think the city of Stamford needs to enact any legislation since it is covered in this statute.

Some concerns discussed:

Is the WPCA selling its wastewater sludge as fertilizer? Is it allowed to be sold out of state even if it is banned in Connecticut? Are there purification methods that remove the PFAS?

How can we regulate it being sold out of state, to a place that makes food which is sold back to Connecticut to be consumed?

This could involve interstate commerce laws which are Federal and Connecticut and Stamford do not have control over those.

Rep. Goldberg is on the WPCA Board. He can find out what is going on and report back to the Committee.

Even if the WPCA is no longer is doing this, it would involve a procedural change that would be useful for the BOR to hear about.

Rep. Walston made a motion to recommit to Steering to bring in the WPCA to discuss.

A motion to recommit Item #1 to Steering to bring the WPCA before the Committee was made, seconded, and approved by a voice vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Pierre-Louis, Ley, Blank, Goldberg, Vandervoort, and Walston in favor).

2. SC31.015	RESOLUTION; to pledge to treat others with dignity (to practice and promote civility in the City of Stamford). 04/03/24 – Submitted by Reps. Cottrell, Camporeale, Pavia, Strain 04/17/24 – Held by Committee 4-0-0 07/15/24 – Held at Steering 08/12/24 – Moved to Pending	Failed 2-3-1
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Rep. Cottrell reviewed the six levels of the Dignity Index and the resolution and there was discussion.

This resolution was drafted over one year ago. Although this resolution may seem a bit idealistic, the BOR needs to be self-reflective and needs to work to be more respectful of one another.

The Dignity Index encourages more civility in political debates and society in general.

Some concerns addressed:

How would this resolution be balanced with the right to free speech?

This resolution seems to limit the way people talk and requests that Representatives limit their views and what they say.

There does not appear to be anything limiting free speech in the resolution.

Rep. Cotrell said it was not her intent is not to suppress free speech, but as a society we need to be able to tolerate people who have different opinions. The tone and contempt that some BOR members have towards others assumes that the other person's intent is negative.

Different people can hear different things from what a person says. If a Representative hears something that they think broke one of these resolution rules, it can be weaponized against a Representative.

If the BOR follows and respects Robert's Rules of Order, that would achieve what this resolution is attempting to do.

A motion to approve Item #2 was made, seconded, and failed by a roll call vote of 2-3-1 (Reps. Ley and Vandervoort in favor; Reps. Pierre-Louis, Goldberg, and Walston opposed; and Rep. Blank abstained).

Chair Pierre-Louis adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Pierre-Louis, chair.

This meeting is on [video](#).