

NJRPA PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
JANUARY 19, 2022

Present: Denise Lanza, Kat Avitt, Carl Jennings, Rick Wright, Tim Hill, Dave Horsnall, Janice Grasso, Mary Beth Wheeler, Bruce Kaufmann, Debbie Oliver, Ryan Horne, Judith Leblein Josephs, Tim Roetman, Dina Trunzo, Jen Underwood, Mark Texel, Dawn Thompson, Mona Cholowinski, Janet Dellett, Romaine Eaker Kelly.

Brain Injury Alliance: Bruce asked if there were any NJRPA comments for the upcoming meeting of BIA. It was agreed that there was nothing at this time. Denise thanked Bruce for serving as liaison to the group.

Bill Review:

A459 – Exempts recreational safety helmets from sales tax. **Support**

A594 – Establishes the NJ State Parks and Forests Foundation. Seek comments from NJ DPF. Determine applicability of solar energy section. Seek membership of person with recreational background. Rick noted that committee assignments in the Senate were not yet available but suggested that we can contact Assemblyman Spearman prior to a scheduled committee meeting with our concerns. **Monitor**

A618 – Requires school districts to provide instruction on water safety as part of NJ Learning Standards. Judith reported that there has been a historic loss in this element of the curriculum and the bill is a start in returning to this important lesson. She noted that there are other bills to consider which do not have numbers at this time – Life Safety lessons in kindergarten, Dry drowning (Assemblywoman McKnight), and designating the third week of May as Water Safety Week. Tim Roetman also asked about the ability to teach water safety in a community without a water body or pool. It is generally agreed that there could be some sharing of facilities. Rick suggested that the Dept. of Education would be charged with implementation guidelines. He also suggested we seek support from majority members, therefore speaking to Assemblyman Kean and Assemblywoman Munoz. Various resources were suggested by the committee including Water Safety USA and Red Cross Whales Tails. Dawn noted that this is a community benefit. **Support**

A1939 – Directs the BPU to establish a rebate program for purchase of electric or battery powered leaf blowers. More details are needed. **Monitor.** And related:

S437 – Prohibits the sale and use of gas-powered leaf blowers. Rick reported that several members had a phone conference with the NJ Landscape Contractors Association to discuss impact of this bill and possible amendments. The bill makes it illegal to sell in one year and illegal to use at four years. Rick also reported that there was a call scheduled with Senator Smith later that day. **Monitor**

A2044 – Requires the State to purchase certain vehicles when purchasing a new vehicle. Although designated for State agencies at this time, it could apply to local agencies in the future. Concerns included cost, maintenance, training, and infrastructure needs. **Monitor**

S393 – Makes supplemental appropriation of \$1B for After School Recreation in Urban Areas. Stipulates use and eligibility criteria for funds. The funds come from the federal stimulus money. Rick reported that Senators Rice is very serious about getting funding because he feels this is an important need. Initially, it may be somewhat contentious. There was some discussion of current programs. Tim Roetman said he has summer camps with STEM elements. If the money is spent for Recreation centers, would it be a

jump start? What would the sustainability be? There would need to be a period of ongoing support. Carl agreed, noting that most grants have an initial funding period but then costs are assigned to the municipality. Jen suggested that funds could be funneled through existing programs such as CDBG programs and others of the DCA. She suggested that collaborations would be a good element of funding programs. Dina stressed that the term “underserved” include people with disabilities. **Monitor** (possibly support later).

S438 – Changes the entity responsible for the NJ School of Conservation to a nonprofit organization, and directs the DOE to request funding for the Center annually. **Support**

2020/2021 Legislative Session Update:

S6203 – CBT revenue allocation for historic preservation. Monitor for reintroduction.

S4207/A6117 – Concerns apprenticeship programs of public works contractors. Signed by the Governor.

S4080/A6088 – Requires certain snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles, and dirt bikes to be forfeited and destroyed. Bills were merged. Signed by the Governor.

S3741/A5973 – RA certification bill was reintroduced by Senator Greenstein as S288. A new Assembly sponsor is needed. Rick suggested waiting for the committee assignments.

Dry Drowning legislation – MBI worked with the lobbyist for the ER Doctors and was able to stop S4177 from moving forward. A2477 sponsored by Assemblywoman McKnight passed out of the assembly committee but never went to the floor for a full vote. No new bills have been introduced.

Pre-Filed Bill List: Rick reported that MBI has prepared a list of pre-filed bills for this session. They will be attached to the minutes and sent to all. He noted that pre-filed bills are those that were not passed last session. They can be pre-filed prior to January 11. Anything after January 11, must go through the standard process in that member’s house.

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 16, 2022