

From: Danny Varat
To: Catherine McNicoll <CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov>
Date: 4/19/2018 11:03:03 AM
Subject: RE: Need your help and guidance on Senate procedure ~ Website email from Emily Wright

Please draft an email to the senators asking for their consideration. He'll send it to her separately.

From: Catherine McNicoll
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 10:03 AM
To: Danny Varat
Subject: FW: Need your help and guidance on Senate procedure ~ Website email from Emily Wright

Please advise

*Best Regards,
Catherine McNicoll
Director of Legal & Legislative Affairs
Lieutenant Governor's Office
CatherineMcNicoll@SCStatehouse.gov
803-734-5292 (phone)*

From: emily@twgsc.com [mailto:emily@twgsc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 3:23 PM
Subject: Need your help and guidance on Senate procedure ~ Website email from Emily Wright

Dear Lieutenant Governor Bryant, I am seeking guidance and your help. I am an Autism mom, and I have been advocating for several months for bill H.3790, which bars health insurers from excluding the primary treatment for autism. H.3790 passed the House last year, and it has been assigned to the Senate Banking & Insurance subcommittee since May 2017. In January, 2018 the bill was heard in the subcommittee, but for only 10 minutes at the end. The committee chose not to vote on the bill at that time and said it would re-visit at a later date. Since then, the bill has not appeared on another subcommittee agenda, nor is it on the agenda for tomorrow's subcommittee meeting. Senators Ronnie Cromer and Sean Bennett oppose the bill. I met with Senator Cromer last week, and he gave me the reasons listed below for not being able to put the bill on the subcommittee or full committee agenda. I do not understand this. It seems like because he is opposed to the bill he is blocking it from receiving a vote, which does not seem right.

- Schedule** - he said that the agenda for the meeting this week has already been set, but the bills on that agenda crossed over in 2018. Our bill crossed over from the House in May 2017, and it still has not received a subcommittee vote. Since it has already come up in a subcommittee, should it not be put in front of other bills? Bill S.1067, which Senator Cromer sponsored, was introduced 3/1/2018 for a first reading, heard in the Banking & Insurance subcommittee 3/7/2018, heard in the Banking & Insurance full committee 3/14/2018, and sent to the floor of the Senate. If a bill can be put on the fast track in that manner, why does Senator Cromer tell me that he does not have control over when our bill can be heard?
- Consensus** - he said that a bill needs to have consensus before it is heard in committee. He told me that since a bill can be held up on the floor of the Senate by even one Senator, he needs to make sure that there is consensus on it before it is put on the agenda for a subcommittee or full committee meeting. If that were the case, no bill would ever make it to the floor of the Senate that has opposition. I see many bills that receive votes both for and against them, so that can't possibly be the case.
- Meetings** - he said that the Senate has specific rules on how subcommittee and committee meetings are scheduled. He told us that some committees have priority over Banking & Insurance, so that committee has to defer to others in terms of schedule. He was not sure he would be able to hold another subcommittee meeting before the end of the session.
- Language** - he said that the House writes bills differently from the Senate, and it would take significant work to get the bill into a form that would pass in the Senate. If that were the case, wouldn't every bill that crosses over have

challenges? Are you aware of that being an ongoing issue? Also, Senators Cromer and Bennett voted in favor of bill S.135 in 2015, which had almost identical language to H.3790. Why is the language an issue now if it was not then? When asked to put bill H.3790 on the next subcommittee meeting agenda today, Senator Bennett flatly refused and said that it would not be voted on, period. Can you please help me understand the Senate rules and expectations under these circumstances, and would you be willing to ask Senators Cromer and Bennett to allow the bill to be heard? I do not expect them to vote in favor of the bill, but the right thing to do is put it on the agenda to receive a vote. Thank you in advance for your help and guidance! Regards, Emily Wright
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