

Captioning Transcript of Committee on Equity and Inclusion - October 20, 2022

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Peace welcome to the Committee on Equity and Inclusion. Today is Thursday, October 20th, 2022, the time is currently 4:08 PM. I'm Chairman Jecorey Arthur. We also have Vice Chair Anthony Piagentini with committee members Kevin Kramer, Cassie Chambers Armstrong, Markus Winkler Barbara Shanklin and will be joined by committee member Nicole George shortly. This meeting is being held pursuant to KRS 61.826 and council rule 5A. Today we just have 1 item, we'll finish the work on our voting rights resolution, the work on our voting rights resolution, R-128-22 to a resolution relating to the voting of incarcerated individuals at Louisville Metro Department of Corrections and in Kentucky.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Motion to untable.

"Kramer, Kevin"

Second.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Motion Piagentini, seconded by Kramer. The resolution is in front of us shout out to everyone who's done work on the resolution, but also taking the work from the resolution into the jail and I've already really hit the ground running with making sure people have more access to voting. Today we'll just clean the resolution up a bit and make sure that we're clear in our intent and I'll pass the mic to my Vice Chair Anthony Piagentini to talk about that.

"Piagentini, Anthony"

Thank you. Mr. Chairman. So a couple of things and let me just say that, the intention behind the proposed amendment, and just to unpanic the clerk's office in the county Attorney's office, I have this saved with track changes on and I will send it out to you as well as the committee members afterwards so everybody has a copy of it, but I'll read it into the record and make a motion to amend based on these, but the intention behind it, as chairman Arthur said, was to clean some things up after doing some research with the secretary of state's office with the county clerk and others clarifying some using, just, you know, moderately changing the language. For example, I'll give you one of the examples that we're talking about so, for example, one of the things I found out in some of this research, yes,

identification is required to vote in Kentucky part of that and part of the law that was passed a couple of years ago was free state identification and to be super clear, not just free voting identification, it's actually free state identification. So that identification is functions for all state purposes, it doesn't give you authority to drive it's on a driver's license, but it provides a state based identification for state services access to state, areas in the state where you need identification, including, being able to vote. So and when you're doing, and I actually tested this out on the clerk's website, just to see how it worked one of the absentee ballot requests is that you are in Pretrial incarceration, and when you click on it, there is actually an automated process because obviously, if you're voting absentee, you can't present to a human being as you're promoting, live your identification so, there's an automated process that queries the state database and pulls up your identification based off of your social security number and your date of birth. So some of those things guided many of the changes you're gonna hear that Chairman Arthur and I discussed today, so I'm going to go through this as clearly as I possibly can and bear with me because I'm going to number the whereas clauses with 1 being the first and going down from there. So starting with the fourth, whereas clause it starts with the word misinformation I've struck the section between the words barriers and identification and change the word all to may so that it'll now read, whereas misinformation about eligibility and challenges to casting a ballot may suppress an incarcerated person's ability to vote, so, that's that one the next is whereas clause number 6, instead of saying, the number one factor, it will read a factor that impacts voter turnout is voter education and outreach, which is particularly crucial in jails. The next one is number I apologize what my account 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 number 11 I struck the last section after the last and slash or so it will still read, whereas to help currently incarcerate people registered to vote some policies include making the Department of corrections and probation parole authorities responsible for assisting with voluntary voter registration. The reason you'll notice that I took out, although generally are supportive of discussing this at a state level and you'll hear that later on, currently the regulations in law around ballot Dropbox. Some experts said it would be it would be impossible others that it would just be extremely difficult to operationalize a valid Dropbox in the jail under current state law. Right? So but the intent of course, is to still make it as easy as humanly possible. So struck that section. The next the second to last, whereas calls on page 2 has been struck in its entirety and why am I, sorry, pardon me,

computer glitch and then the first, whereas calls on page 3 I added part then struck a part so it'll read in Kentucky the absentee ballot process includes an electronic verification process related to their proper identification qualifying them to vote strikes the rest of the section and then the next, whereas clauses is, whereas the commonwealth of Kentucky provides a no cost state identification that can be used for many purposes, including voting striking the rest of the section, and then in the body of the language bottom page 3 starting with, I'm trying to start at a sentence starting with where it says council further supports. It will read I struck a section and added some language so it says council further supports establishing easier access to voting at jail sites to ensure that many of the barriers to vote experienced by currently incarcerated people are eliminated, and then in section 2, at the bottom of section 2, it says, starting from the section where it says and established. So it says I'll start with, where it says education, but including, but not limited to education regarding voting rights, register, restoration assistance with voter registration and obtaining identification and establishing an easier process for voting at the Louisville Jefferson County Department of corrections. The reason being, we're saying we, we want to work on policies procedures locally as well as legislation that makes it easier for people that are in Pretrial incarcerated to vote, whatever that may be, including if the state wants to reconsider their current regulations about around drop boxes again, right now, they're pretty tight regulations would be very difficult to pull it off the jail, but it leaves open the opportunity to exploring that and working with the state to make that as easy as possible. So those are all the changes glad to answer any questions about them, but I did want to make that in the form of a motion.

"Kramer, Kevin"

Second.

"Arthur, Jecorey"

Let the record reflect that committee member Nicole George is present. Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Any opposed? Thank you. Madam Clerk, is it safe to say that the amended resolution is before us? How do we work that our process wise? Okay, perfect. I also want to just add before we vote and pass this thing that of the county clerk corrections shoutout to the American administration already working on this process, as I said, and they actually have a process set up where there's an application sheet for voters to put down their names some of their info needed to make sure that their registration is set up

and then the county clerk is going to pick that application sheet up mail the absentee ballots to corrections and then they'll send them back just like regular mail. So, shoutout to everyone who's been working on this, all the volunteers, all the committee members who are supportive of it.

We believe that everyone should have the right to do something. That's probably 1 of the most important political actions you'll take in your life, so, we're happy to pass this legislation today and I think we're ready to vote since this is a resolution let me just do a voice vote on a favor say, aye. Any opposed? Thank you so much. We have no more business before us today the resolution passes, and because of the amendment, it will go to old business. Thank you all for your service, peace.