

Probate Redistricting Commission

Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 4, 2009

10:00 AM in Room 1C of the Legislative Office Building

Chairman, Representative Bob Godfrey, convened the meeting at 10:30 AM

The following commission members were present:

Frederick Leaf, Esq.; Brian Austin, Esq.; State Representative Marilyn Giuliano; State Representative Bob Godfrey; Michael Christ, Esq.; Robert Frankel, Esq.; Judge Fred Anthony; Judge David Hopper; Judge Sydney Elkin; Ms. Ann Follacchio; Judge Kathleen Murphy; Judge Daniel Caruso and Judge Paul Knierim, Ex Officio Member.

None were absent.

Rep. Godfrey shared an e-mail from Don Stein, First Selectman of Barkhamsted. Mr. Stein indicated that Barkhamsted would like to stay in the Northwest Corner.

Rep. Godfrey told members that draft language was distributed to the members to amend §45a-186 of the Connecticut General Statutes concerning appeals from probate court to superior court. Discussion followed regarding business that was conducted at the previous meeting.

Rep. Frankel moved, and Judge Caruso seconded the motion, to have Plainville placed back into the proposed district comprised of Bristol and Plymouth and to create a district comprised of Avon, Burlington, Canton, Farmington, Granby, and Simsbury. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Attorney Frankel moved, and Attorney Leaf seconded the motion, to create a district comprised of Darien, New Canaan, Weston, Westport, and Wilton. The motion failed on a voice vote.

Rep. Giuliano moved, and Attorney Christ seconded the motion, to move East Haddam out of the proposed district comprised of Chester, Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook and into the district comprised of Colchester, Glastonbury, Hebron, Lebanon, and Marlborough. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Chairman Godfrey called for a recess at 11:40 AM.

Chairman Godfrey reconvened the meeting at 12:50 PM.

Rep. Giuliano moved, and Attorney Leaf seconded the motion, for the commission to adopt the map proposed by the Connecticut Probate Assembly as amended by motions adopted during the commission deliberations. The motion passed 11-1 on a roll call vote.

Attorney Frankel moved, Judge Elkin seconded the motion, that an addendum be added to the commission's report to identify the commission's concern about the proposed non-contiguous district proposed for Darien, New Canaan, Westport, and Weston. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Attorney Christ moved, and Attorney Austin seconded the motion, that the addendum identify the Farmington Valley as an area of concern. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Attorney Christ moved, and Rep. Giuliano seconded the motion, that the addendum identify the Colchester area as another area of concern. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Attorney Leaf moved, and Judge Anthony seconded the motion, to recommend to the Governor and Legislature that §45a-8a of the Connecticut General Statutes be amended to permit the administrative judge of any regional children's probate court to continue to adjudicate matters even if he or she is no longer an elected probate judge. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Attorney Frankel moved, and Attorney Christ seconded the motion, to amend §45a-186 of the Connecticut General Statutes to allow the appellant in an appeal from probate to bring the appeal in any judicial district of the superior court that serves any portion of the probate district. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Judge Anthony moved to adjourn, and Judge Hopper seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Tarca