

Legere on HB 2158 1-22

This bill was hotly contested by CAI and AACM and They pulled out all the stops to get the language to fit their agendas. Despite two stakeholder meeting neither CAI or AACM ever provide comment on the bill simply objection in an attempt to delay or prevent the introduction.

I drafted the original bill language based on their verbal comments. Once comments were provided by CAI, the Representative refused to concede to their demands and insisted that an amendment be drafted that retained the general intent of the bill. CAI proposed language and formatting that they claimed was simply for clarity and needed to be separated from the primary and general elections signs because integrating the two would be too confusing for communities. While I would agree that any language would be too confusing for community managers but that would be based solely on initial intelligence level.

The real issue that they did not reveal until the last meeting was that using language that associations signs constituted political signs implied that these communities are governmental entities. I totally rejected that argument and so did the sponsor because we both believe that they are quasi governments.

The ridiculous nature and hidden motivation of the HOA trade groups is what makes any HOA meaningful legislation so difficult to get introduced or protected from demands from the trade groups for provisions that benefit them only. The final amended bill is still a good bill and preserves the ability to express their opinion on elections and voting matters as political signs and the use of any common area facility to discuss and organize the community against the actions of the board. It also ensures that community bulletin boards can be used to provide community notice for those informal member meetings. This bill is a far cry from total affirmation of our fundamental rights to freedom of speech and assembly I started with this session , but it is the best bill I could work out dealing with the idiots of the trade organizations and highly paid lobbyist.

This bill passed the House government committee 13-0 with all the trade groups posting a neutral position on the bill. While I'm confident that bill is in a position to actually pass this session nothing can be taken for granted and I'm sure that neither CAI or AACM have given up on their lies to try and kill this bill once again in the Senate. Much more work is required to get this bill to the Governor.

Dennis