

Notes from Beacon Hill

State Representative Kate Hogan

House Committee Assignments Completed

Speaker DeLeo released committee assignments last Friday: I will be serving my district and the House of Representatives as Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities & Energy. I am also a member of the Joint Committees on Small Business & Community Development as well as State Administration & Regulatory Oversight. These committees are all deeply involved with the issues, challenges and potentials of both the 3rd Middlesex District and the Commonwealth. I am honored by the appointments and energized to begin hearings.

And with the appointments the legislature can now get down to the work of sorting out the thousands of House bills that were filed last week as the clerk assigns identifying numbers and delivers bills off to their appropriate committees. The committee chairs will now call meetings, create schedules for public hearings, and define how best to organize bills heard before the committee.

My legislation for the coming session (ongoing)

One of the bills I have filed assists nonprofits and expands animal protection: **An Act Relative To The Rescue Of Foals**. This legislation updates an antiquated law and allows Animal Rescues to transfer foals at a younger age to their new adoptive homes (read barn.) Currently, it can cost up to \$5,000 a month for Animal Rescues to care for foals since, thankfully, technology exists that allows caretakers to easily provide all necessary early life care. This bill was created after talking with the folks at www.luckyhorse.org. This organization saves, trains, and finds homes for abandoned horses. The bill will help them – and other nonprofits like them - continue their mission.

Reading Never Sounded So Good

I also wanted to share the following information on free library service for eligible constituents through the Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library:

Do you or does someone you know have trouble reading traditional print because of a disability? Whether the print is too small and it strains your eyes, or if you have trouble holding a book or turning pages, or if you have a reading disability like dyslexia, you are eligible for free library services from The Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library.

The Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library is a public library service that provides large print books, audio books and magazines along with playback equipment, telephone newspaper access, audio described videos and DVDs, and braille books to people who have difficulty reading regular print, holding a book, or turning pages due to a visual or physical impairment.

There are many kinds of reading materials in the Perkins collection, including fiction and nonfiction, for both children and adults. Bestsellers, biographies, self-help, westerns, romances, mysteries, current events, and magazines, are just some of the materials that borrowers may select. Additionally, the materials are mailed directly to your door and returned to us for free through the US Postal Service.

If loss of vision or a physical or reading impairment is keeping you, or someone you know, from enjoying your favorite reading material, please contact the Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library by call (617) 972-7240 or (800) 852-3133, e-mail library@perkinslibrary.org or visit perkinslibrary.org.

Kate Hogan is proud to serve the 3rd Middlesex Towns of Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow in the Massachusetts House of Representatives: Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov