

HB 1444

Rep. Ben Koppelman- Testimony

Madame Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank You for the opportunity to introduce HB1444 to you today.

This is a relatively simple bill in that it cleans up statute to represent proper terminology and current practice.

As many of you are aware, a legislator may request a written Attorney General's opinion on legal questions. This is often a tool used to guide or correct action by an agency, board, or commission of the executive branch or a political subdivision of the state as it applies to the implementation and applicability of state law. These opinions are often informed by court decisions and legislative intent in addition to previous AG's opinions.

This bill does not change policy or current practice, but rather correctly codifies that practice. I can't find any legislative history as to why this section was written so poorly. However, it would be hard for me to believe that anyone would object to clarifying the law.

Madame Chairman and members of the committee, there is never a time like the present to correct poorly written sections of code to ensure that our law reads plainly and says what it should say when outlining the duties of the Attorney General.

For that reason, I request that you give this bill a Do-Pass recommendation. I would be happy to attempt to answer any questions that you may have.