ARIZONA STATE SENATE

56TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

DATE: January 11, 2023 **TIME:** 9:00 A.M. **ROOM:** SHR 1

CHAIRMAN: Senator Steve Kaiser **VICE-CHAIRMAN:** Senator Frank Carroll

ANALYST: Jason Theodorou

ATTENDANCE

BILLS

Committee Members	Pr	Ab	Ex	Bill Number	Disposition
Senator Hatathlie			X		
Senator Hernandez	X				
Senator Kern			X		
Senator Mesnard	X				
Senator Miranda	X				
Senator Carroll, Vice-Chairman	X				
Senator Kaiser, Chairman	X				

PRESENTATIONS

- Maximizing Refugee Talent in Arizona – Aaron Rippenkroeger, Executive Director, International Rescue Committee in Arizona
- The State of Arizona Business - Danny Seiden, President and CEO, Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Scaling Arizona's Global Competitiveness - Sandra Watson, President and CEO, Arizona Commerce Authority

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:
https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2023011024

Chairman Kaiser called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. and attendance was taken.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

Senator Kaiser requested staff and members to introduce themselves as follows:

- Jason Theodorou, Commerce Committee Analyst
- Fausto Burruel, Commerce Committee Assistant Research Analyst
- Pauline Mayundo, Commerce Committee Intern
- Lucas Atencio, Democratic Staff Intern
- Carly Wakefield, Policy Advisor, Majority Staff
- Ashley Osyczka, Majority Staff Intern
- Tanner Morin, Senate Page
- Marijosse Tostado, Senate Page
- Malak YousseArafat, Senate Page
- Gabriel Johnson, Senate Page
- Tracey Gardner, Committee Secretary

The Committee members introduced themselves.

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE RULES

Senator Carroll moved that the Commerce Committee Rules as distributed on January 5, 2023 be adopted (Attachment A). The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

PRESENTATIONS

Maximizing Refugee Talent in Arizona

Aaron Rippenkroeger, Executive Director, International Rescue Committee in Arizona (IRC), gave an overview of the IRC.

Elnaz Bourbour, Economic Empowerment Manager, International Rescue Committee in Arizona (IRC), explained the efforts of the IRC.

Aurore Agahozo, a refugee from Conga shared her story with the IRC.

The Committee discussed the presentation mentioned above.

Dawlat Alrifai, a refugee from Syria shared her story with the IRC.

Karmin Dawood, Employment Specialist, International Rescue Committee (IRC), shared her story and the challenges refugees have with obtaining employment.

Megan Schwab, Advocacy Officer, International Rescue Committee (IRC), gave an overview of the workforce development issues for refugees, introduced her staff and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Mr. Rippenkroeger answered questions posed by the Committee.

The State of Arizona Business

Danny Seiden, President and CEO, Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "The State of Arizona Business" (Attachment B) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Scaling Arizona's Global Competitiveness

Sandra Watson, President and CEO, Arizona Commerce Authority, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Scaling Arizona's Global Competitiveness" (Attachment C) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Attached is a list noting the individuals who registered their position on the agenda items (Attachment D).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Gardner
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at http://www.azleg.gov)