

Michael Sloan

Legislative History Project

I researched the legislative history of H.4178, an Act adopting the federal secure and fair enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008. This became Chapter 44 of the Acts of 2009 on July 31, 2009. To research the statute's legislative history, I began in the Joint Committee on Financial Service, where the bill was referred on January 20, 2009. I worked with Carl Abate, to find the testimony relating to the statute. All of the interested parties who wrote in and offered testimony were in favor of the bill's passage. The bill came to the Joint Committee on Financial Services as H.980, and on June 3, 2009, a new draft, H.4127, was created.

To find the subsequent history of the bill, I spoke to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. Neither of them had any subsequent history on the bill. They did not have any testimony or requests that had been sent to their offices related to this bill. I then spoke to the Office of the House Clerk, and we looked up the Journal of the House, for July 28, 2009, when the bill was read for a third time and passed to be engrossed. The House Committee on Ways and Means substituted a new bill, H.4178, in place of the one reported to them, H.4127. As Carl Abate explained it to me, the changes made between H.4127 and H.4178, were mainly housekeeping ones. The new bill substituted a new definitions section, and put the lettering in alphabetical order, rather than simply adding new definitions to the end of the existing definitions section. This might explain why the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means had no subsequent history or testimony, because the changes being made were not substantive. I also spoke with the Office of the Senate Clerk, who referred me to the Journal of the Senate for July 29, 2009, when the Senate passed the bill to be engrossed, and enacted the legislation. The Governor's office also had no further information on the statute.

In all this legislative history project, contains the following: 1) the original bill, H.980, that was referred to the Joint Committee on Financial Services on January 20, 2009, 2) the subsequent bill, H.4127, drafted on June 3, 2009, 3) the final bill, H.4178, which was signed into law on July 31, 2009, 4) the testimony pertaining to these bills, 5) the Journal of the House for the day of July 28, 2009, when the relevant amendments to the bills were added, it took on its final form, and was passed to be engrossed by the House, and 6) the Journal of the Senate for the day of July 29, 2009, when the Senate passed the bill to be engrossed and enacted the legislation.