

Meeting Minutes
Governmental Procedures and Structure Committee
Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
Holland Building, Room 232
Tallahassee, Florida
Monday, November 26, 2007
2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Committee Members: *Alan Levine, Chair; Mike Hogan; Julia Johnson; Carlos Lacasa; Patricia Levesque; Jacinta Mathis; Nancy Riley; Darryl Rouson; Greg Turbeville; Ken Wilkinson; Brian Yablonski*

Commissioners Present:

Alan Levine, chair
Jacinta Mathis
Nancy Riley
Greg Turbeville
Ken Wilkinson

Other Members Present:

Alan Bense, TBRC Chair

Excused Absences:

Mike Hogan
Julia Johnson
Carlos Lacasa
Patricia Levesque
Darryl Rouson
Brian Yablonski

Chairman Levine called the meeting to order and the secretary called the roll at 2:00 pm and there was not a presence of a quorum.

Chair Levine stated that he had expected more members to be present on the call, but that the committee would move forward with discussions. Chair Levine added that the issues that would be discussed in this meeting would consist of the items presented to the Governmental Procedures and Structures Committee in the past few months. Chair Levine added that he ranked these issues based on areas of interest of which committee members had spoken. Chair Levine gave an example using Commissioner Jacinta Mathis interest in consolidation.

Chair Levine walked through the top five items on his list. Once Chair Levine was done going through each item the committee then assigned a lead to each topic.

Commissioner Riley commented that if the committee was going to prioritize, time should be spent on issues like removing the school tax. Chair Levine responded by saying that this issue was being looked at by another committee.

Chairman Alan Bense agrees with Commissioner Riley of the importance of the school tax issue, but that this committee should go through the entire list to see what is being done by another committee. Chair Levine agreed with Chair Bense by saying that the purpose of the meeting was to focus on the sole areas germane to the committee's purpose.

Tom Cibula and Dudley Goodlette mentioned that Finance and Taxation Committee was putting together a proposal for property taxes and class size was being taken up in the Governmental Services Committee.

Chair Bense explained that he and Dudley Goodlette were the "Traffic Cops" that keep committees from taking up the same issues. Following the Chairman's comments the committee went through each item, separating them by PCB's being looked at by another committee, and things that needed to be looked at by Governmental Procedures and Structure Committee.

Commissioner Bob McKee agreed to take point on the Sun Setting issue. Along with Commissioner McKee, the Governmental Procedures and Structure Committee were also going to be looking at this issue.

Chair Levine made committee members aware that all initial language for PCB's need to be in by Friday, November 30, so that staff can draft an original bill.

Commissioner Riley explained to the committee that she had a discussion with Tom Cibula regarding the removal of school tax from the ad valorem and moving towards an increase in sales tax to off set this. Commission Riley wanted to know if the Finance and Taxation Committee was actually looking at this issue as this was something she is very interested in.

Commissioner Ken Wilkinson stated there was a PCB approved by Finance and Taxation that will deal with the issue of the school tax. Commissioner Wilkinson also emphasized that one of the three McKay proposed bills will be referred to the Governmental Procedures and Structure Committee and the Finance and Taxation Committee bill will be a stand alone committee bill that will possibly be imposing an additional sales tax, which was proposed in the 2002 Legislative Session.

Chair Levine added that since so much time has been spent on taxation by the Finance and Taxation Committee, he wants them to draft something up and have it sent to the Governmental Procedures and Structure Committee as opposed to it originating in the committee.

Commissioner Turbeville agreed to take point on the Blaine Amendment proposal.

City and County Consolidation is an issue that Commissioner Mathis had shown an interest in and was asked to take point.

Tom Cibula asked for a little more clarification as to what direction she would like to go. Commissioner Mathis explained that she would like to know other commissioners thoughts on the issue and then get back with Tom Cibula. Commissioner Mathis felt that it would be a better product if it were collective rather than individual. Commissioner Mathis felt that a more relevant issue to consolidation is duplication and redundancy. Commissioner Mathis asked if it would be better to look at language that forces local cities and counties to look at areas of duplication of services or go straight to consolidation.

Commissioner Turbeville stated that he wishes there was a way to analyze duplication of services and see if there is a mechanism that could be put in place to offer incentives or discourage the duplication of services.

Commissioner Riley and Commissioner Mathis agreed with Commissioner Turbeville's idea rather than mandating consolidation.

After discussion, the committee decided to go ahead with the concept of developing a limited number of committee proposals for future consideration. The committee came to the agreement that the six main areas and their lead coordinator would be:

- Sun Setting Special Taxing Authorities – Commissioner Riley, Lead
- Duplication of Municipal County Services and Incentives – Commissioner Jacinta Mathis, Lead
- Collective Bargaining / Unfunded Mandates – Held until 11/30/07
- State Bonding Process / Debt Cap – Commissioner Levesque, Lead
- Blaine Amendment & Uniformity – Commissioner Turbeville, Lead
- Water Management District Officials being elected not appointed – Chair Levine, Lead

With no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 PM.