

Meeting Minutes
Governmental Services Committee
Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
301 Senate Office Building
Tallahassee, Florida
Thursday, November 30, 2007
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Committee Members: *Roberto “Bobby” Martinez, Chair, Barney Barnett, Martha Barnett, Mark Bostick, Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte, Bruce Kyle, Robert “Bob” McKee, Les Miller, Jr., Randy Miller, Jade Moore, James Scott*

Members Present:

James Scott, Acting Chair
Bob McKee
Sandy D’Alemberte
Martha Barnett
Jade Moore
Randy Miller
Les Miller

Members Absent:

Roberto “Bobby” Martinez, Chair
Mark Bostick
Bruce Kyle
Barney Barnett

Other Members Present:

Allan Bense, TBRC Chairman

Acting Chair Jim Scott called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Staff called roll and announced the presence of a quorum.

Acting Chair Scott noted that several committee actions were taken during the previous day’s Governmental Services Committee and asked Robert Shave, TBRC Analyst, to present a wrap up on the actions taken during the meeting.

Mr. Shave indicated that the Governmental Services Committee had voted on a number of specific policy issues to be adopted as committee proposals. He explained that each proposal was assigned a commissioner to work with staff in the drafting process. Completed proposal drafts are to be assigned a letter and will be brought back to the committee at a future meeting for discussion, edits, and a final vote to approve the draft as a committee proposal. If a 2/3 vote of the committee approves the measure, the

proposal will be assigned a number and submitted to TBRC Chair Bense for assignment to committees of reference.

Mr. Shave presented a brief overview of each of the proposals discussed in the November 29, 2007 meeting:

- The committee discussed modifications to the Bright Futures program and voted to create a committee proposal. Commissioner Sandy D'Alemberte was selected to take the lead on this topic. Commissioner Les Miller indicated that he has been working with staff concerning Bright Futures and asked if it would be possible to work with Commissioner D'Alemberte on this issue. Acting Chair Scott recommended that an Ad Hoc Committee be formed, upon the approval of Chair Martinez, with Commissioners Les Miller and Sandy D'Alemberte as members. Without objection, the committee voted to form the Ad Hoc Committee on Bright Futures, Florida Prepaid Program, and Gambling Revenues.
- The committee discussed the constitutional mandate on limits to class sizes in K-12. Wayne Blanton, Executive Director of the Florida School Boards Association, and Bill Montfort, CEO of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, provided a draft of a Constitutional Amendment that would modify the program to average class sizes at the school-wide level, include a hard cap of 5 students, and other changes. The committee unanimously decided to adopt the draft provided by Montfort and Blanton, minus the final paragraph allowing a temporary waiver of the class size limits. Chair Martinez was selected to take the lead on this issue.
- The committee discussed several issues regarding the Florida Community College System. The committee voted to create a proposal on funding sources for community colleges and local tax options. There was some discussion to establish community college attendance as an entitlement, essentially adding Community Colleges to K-12 in the Department of Education and allowing all graduates of Florida high schools access to a community college education at no cost. This item was not adopted as a committee proposal. Commissioner Bob McKee was selected to take the lead on this issue.
- The committee voted to create an informal statutory recommendation to continue the funding for the K-12 reading program, Just Read, Florida! The measure was passed by a unanimous vote. Chair Martinez was selected to take the lead on this issue.
- The committee voted to create a proposal on alternative sources of dedicated funding for Education in Florida. The measure was passed by a unanimous vote. Commissioner Martha Barnett was selected to take the lead on this issue.
- The committee discussed several items related to public safety and corrections and voted to introduce language from 3 of the 4 recommendations presented by

James McDonough, Secretary of the Department of Corrections. These recommendations include: Controlled Re-Entry; Year-and-a-Day Sentencing, and Gain Time Rewards. The committee indicated that further attention to the reduction of Florida's recidivism rate was needed. Commissioner Randy Miller was selected to take the lead on this issue.

- The final proposal voted on by the committee was a measure to increase the millage cap for the North West Florida Water Management District to match the other four water management districts at .1 mill. This proposal will be a constitutional amendment designed to bring taxing equality to all 5 water management districts. Commissioner Randy Miller was selected to take the lead on this issue.

Acting Chair Jim Scott recognized Commissioner Randy Miller to introduce some statutory language on Transportation funding. Commissioner Miller asked the Chair to call on Bob Burleson, representative of the Transportation Builders Association, to give an overall view of what needs to be done in the transportation system. There was discussion among the committee members regarding this transportation funding and the transportation proposal that was presented.

Commissioner Randy Miller's motion to adopt this proposal as a committee measure was passed unanimously.

Next, there was discussion on Bright Futures. Commissioner Jade Moore stated that he would like to join with Commissioners Les Miller and Sandy D'Alemberte on the Bright Futures Ad Hoc Committee. Without objection, Commissioner Jade Moore joined the Ad Hoc Committee.

TBRC Chair Bense reminded the committee of the process of proposing measures and voting on proposals. On the subject of Water Management Districts, Chair Bense commented on representation issues. He suggested that governmental bodies that have the authority to levy taxes should be accountable to the voters.

Commissioner Randy Miller requested that all interested parties of Florida's water policy be present at the next committee meeting on December 14, 2007 to participate in the discussion on water policy issues.

Without any further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.