

Meeting Minutes
Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
Knott Building, Room 412
Tallahassee, Florida
Friday, December 14, 2007
3:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Or upon adjournment of afternoon committee meetings

Commission Members: *Barney Barnett; Martha Barnett; Mark Bostick; Sandy D'Alemberte; Mike Haridopolis; Mike Hogan; Julia Johnson; Bruce Kyle; Carlos Lacasa; Patricia Levesque; Alan Levine; Gwen Margolis; Bobby Martinez; Jacinta Mathis; John McKay; Bob McKee; Les Miller; Randy Miller; Jade Miller; Frank Peterman; Nancy Riley; Darryl Rouson; Ray Sansom; Susan Story; Greg Turbeville; Ken Wilkinson; Brian Yablonski; James Scott, Vice Chair; Allan Bense, Chair*

Commissioners Present:

Allan Bense, Chair	John McKay
Barney Barnett	Bob McKee
Martha Barnett	Les Miller
Julia Johnson	Randy Miller
Patricia Levesque	Ken Wilkinson
Jacinta Mathis	

Excused Absences:

Mark Bostick	Nancy Riley
Sandy D'Alemberte	Darryl Rouson
Mike Haridopolos	Ray Sansom
Mike Hogan	Greg Turbeville
Bruce Kyle	Brian Yablonski
Carlos Lacasa	James Scott, Vice Chair
Alan Levine	
Gwen Margolis	
Bobby Martinez	
Jade Moore	

Chairman Allan Bense called the meeting to order and staff called the roll at 2:05 p.m. There was not a presence of a quorum.

Chair Bense informed the Commission that Dr. Antonio Villamil, former Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce for Economic Affairs, would be assisting the Commission with reviewing committee proposals and the long-range impacts of the changes in tax structure, for the next four months.

Chair Bense then asked for reports on recent committee meetings.

Commissioner Randy Miller, acting chair of the Finance and Taxation Committee, reported that they had a lively debate on issues dealing with TABOR. Commissioner Mike Hogan appeared to report on his trip to Colorado and indicated that he intends to file a TABOR-like proposal along with Commissioner Brian Yablonski and would bring it back before the committee at the next meeting.

Commissioner Jacinta Mathis, of the Governmental Procedures and Structure Committee, reported that three proposals — two by Commissioner Margolis (CP0004 and SR0005) and one by Commissioner Les Miller (CP0003) — passed favorably out of committee. She also reported that there was lively discussion during a committee workshop on Commissioner McKay's proposal (CP0002), including presentations by Bob Nabors and Gene Adams, as well as other public testimony on the subject.

Commissioner Martha Barnett, acting chair of the Governmental Services Committee, stated they had a full agenda. Several items were deferred to an upcoming January meeting, including a discussion of the State Court System, ACHA, Medicare Health issues, and Transportation. Commissioner Barnett noted that there was extensive discussion on Water Policy issues, Water Management Districts, Regional Water Authorities, and the Department of Environmental Protection, which led the committee to invite the various representatives to come back to an upcoming committee meeting in January with further information. She stated that Commissioner Les Miller also gave a report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Bright Futures, Florida Prepaid, and dedication of the funding that would come from the gaming compact. There was a very extensive discussion on Bright Futures and the Prepaid College plan and these issues will be brought before the Commission in January for consideration of proposals and discussion.

Chair Bense reported that the Planning and Budgetary Processes Committee did not meet today.

Commissioner John McKay, of the Ad Hoc Committee on Ballot Summary Issues, reported that Commissioners Les Miller and Jim Scott spoke with the Senate President about removing the 75 word cap. Commissioner McKay stated that President Pruitt was neither for nor against this proposal and if it was the will of the Senate he would work to see that it was passed. Commissioner McKay informed the Commission that he had spoken with the governor and he was happy to help since it is important that this pass the first week of session or it would not do this body any good. Senator Constantine agreed to sponsor this bill as long as the president did not oppose.

Chair Bense stated that there was a staff analysis prepared by Tom Cibula on the 75 word cap, and asked if there were any strong objections. Chair Bense reported that a vote could not be taken regarding the 75 word limit proposal since there was not a quorum present.

Chair Bense then asked Executive Director Susan Skelton to announce future meeting dates and times. She reported that the Finance and Taxation Committee will be meeting on January 10, 2008 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in room 301 of the Senate Office Building, and

future dates for Commission and Committee meetings are set for January 11, 17 & 18, 29 & 30 and February 12 & 13.

Chair Bense stated he thought that the final date for members and committees to submit proposals should be January 15, 2008.

Commissioner Mathis suggested that the commission move the date back because of the January 29 vote.

Commissioner Miller stated that once the Legislature starts, Bill Drafting staff will be very busy and recommended that all member proposals be submitted by February 15 and that Committee proposals could still be submitted after that date.

Chair Bense stated that the Commission could not vote at this meeting without a quorum, but would take it up at the next meeting.

Commissioner Martha Barnett asked for clarification on whether or not proposals that do not pass favorably out of a committee are completely dead.

TBRC General Counsel Thomas Cibula stated that they are not completely dead, but they do not automatically have the right to come to the full Commission. Those proposals would be taken up by the Coordinating Committee and could be sent on to the Commission for debate upon their recommendation.

Commissioner McKee reminded the Commission about the lengthy discussion on these rules during a meeting in Orlando and felt that the Commission should stick with the rule they previously agreed upon that once a proposal is dead, it's dead.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 pm.