

Meeting Minutes  
Governmental Procedures and Structure Committee  
Taxation and Budget Reform Commission  
Senate Office Building, Room 37  
Tallahassee, Florida  
Friday, January 11, 2008  
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.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  
Mike Hogan  
Julia Johnson  
Carlos Lacasa  
Patricia Levesque  
Jacinta Mathis  
Nancy Riley  
Darryl Rouson  
Greg Turbeville  
Ken Wilkinson

Excused Absences:

Brian Yablonski

Commissioner D'Alemberte presented CP0025 regarding crisis funding. He expressed concerns that exceptions to the constitutional limits on the ability of the state to raise revenue may be necessary to raise revenue during major, near simultaneous crises. Commissioner D'Alemberte suggested that circumstances could arise during which sales tax revenues are insufficient.

Commissioner Mathis expressed concerns that the measure should be drafted more narrowly.

Commissioner Wilkinson expressed concerns that the measure would open the door to a state income tax.

Commissioner Levesque suggested that the ballot summary should state what specific type of taxes would be authorized by the measure. She suggested that existing mechanisms available to the Governor and Legislature are sufficient to address fiscal crises.

Commissioner Lacasa expressed concerns that the measure would allow a governor to certify crises indefinitely.

Commissioner Levine offered an amendment to allow the Legislature to reduce constitutionally-mandated spending.

Commissioner Lacasa offered an amendment to exclude the imposition of an income tax during a fiscal crisis.

Commissioner Lacasa suggested that the types of revenues that could be raised during a fiscal crisis should be specifically identified.

Commissioner Lacasa asked that the measure be temporally postponed to allow the committee to continue to work on it.

Constitutional Proposal 0025 was temporarily postponed by the committee.

The committee next discussed Constitutional Proposal 0027. Commissioner Hogan explained that the measure corrects errors in the Constitution relating to the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, schedules future TBRCs for 10-year intervals, and repeals the Government Efficiency Task Force. Several commissioners expressed concerns that a 10-year interval for future TBRCs would interfere with the schedule of the Constitution Revision Commissions.

Commissioner Levine suggested that the consensus was for a 10-year interval and the removal of tax and budget issues from the Constitution Revision Commission.

Commissioner Mathis expressed concerns about limiting the jurisdiction of the Constitution Revision Commission.

Commissioner Levesque requested that staff draft multiple alternative amendments to address the 10-yr or 20-yr interval issue. She also requested that staff prepare a calendar showing the proposed dates.

The committee temporarily postponed Constitutional Proposal 27.

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.