

Meeting Minutes
Planning and Budgetary Processes Committee
Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
Senate Office Building, Room 37
Tallahassee, Florida
Tuesday, February 12, 2008
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Committee Members: *Carlos Lacasa, Chair; Mark Bostick, Sandy D'Alemberte, Mike Hogan, Jacinta Mathis, Bob McKee, Les Miller, Jade Moore, Nancy Riley, Darryl Rouson, Greg Turbeville*

Committee Members Present:

Mark Bostick (by phone)
Mike Hogan
Bob McKee
Les Miller
Jade Moore
Nancy Riley
Darryl Rouson
Greg Turbeville
Carlos Lacasa, Chair

Members Excused:

Sandy D'Alemberte
Jacinta Mathis

Chair Lacasa called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. Staff called the roll and announced the presence of a quorum. The agenda contained presentations by the Florida School Boards Association and the Florida Education Association at the request of the commissioners during the January 25, 2008 meeting. Presentations were made by Ruth Mellon of the Florida School Boards Association and Kevin Watson of the Florida Education Association regarding Constitutional Proposal 26.

Commissioner Turbeville explained Constitutional Proposal 26, a resolution to require 65 percent of school district funding to be spent on classroom instruction, rather than on administration. The proposal had been temporarily postponed at the January 25, 2008 meeting.

Ms. Mellon provided a background on the development of the 65 percent solution concept. She indicated that the proposal provided a solution to a problem that does not exist. She further commented that Florida is currently providing 65 percent of funding for instruction. Ms. Mellon proposed that the real issues to be considered were related to teacher salaries and per-pupil funding.

Mr. Watson indicated that the Florida Education Association opposed the issue. He also commented that there did not appear to be a workable solution with the proposal even if additional definitions were provided for “classroom instruction” and other spending categories.

Ms. Quida Ashworth of Taxwatch recommended that the level of spending for classroom instruction should be established by general law with the Legislature setting the minimum for the thresholds and standards.

There was one amendment introduced by Commissioner Turbeville which was adopted unanimously. The commissioner closed on his proposal, as amended, for a committee substitute. The proposal was passed by a vote of 7-2.

Commissioner Rouson presented Statutory Recommendation 19, an act relating to faith and character-based prisons authorizing the expansion of faith-based programs at correctional institutions, authorizing character-based programs at correctional institutions, and mandating expansion and evaluation of faith and character-based programs at certain correctional institutions. There were no amendments. After Commissioner Rouson closed on his proposal, it was passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Any presentation documents and audio recordings of the meeting are posted on the commission website at www.floridatbrc.org for further review.