

Meeting Minutes
Planning and Budgetary Processes Committee
Department of Transportation, Burns Building
Suwannee Conference Room
Tallahassee, Florida
Thursday, March 6, 2008
1:30 p.m. – 6:00 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 (telephone)
Sandy D'Alemberte
Mike Hogan
Jacinta Mathis (telephone)
Bob McKee
Jade Moore
Nancy Riley
Darryl Rouson
Greg Turbeville
Carlos Lacasa, Chair

Members Excused:

Les Miller

Chair Lacasa called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Staff called the roll and announced the presence of a quorum. The agenda contained five proposals for consideration.

Commissioner Hogan presented CP 0027, a resolution proposing to change the timing and increase the frequency of the establishment of future Taxation and Budget Reform Commissions. The proposal included two traveling amendments which were to establish the commission every 10 years in lieu of 20 years; and to exclude matters directly related to taxation or the state budgetary process from the purview of the Constitution Revision Commission. The following speaker appeared before the committee: Pat McConnell.

Issues discussed related to the proposal included:

- Whether there are too many citizen groups, constitution revision commission and the taxation and budget reform commission, and the possibility of combining the functions of the commissions;
- Whether issues brought before one commission could be addressed by the other commission; and
- Whether the amendment clarifying functions of both commissions reduced redundancy of work.

Upon a roll call vote, CP 0027 was reported favorably as a committee substitute by a vote of 7-1.

Commissioner Martinez presented CP 0030, a resolution proposing to make the class size limitations applicable to school averages and to create limited flexibility in the number of students assigned to each teacher. Issues discussed regarding the proposal included:

- The issue of the “19th student” and whether it could be addressed by statute in lieu of a constitutional proposal;
- The funds that could be saved by the passage of the constitutional amendment and whether the funding would remain in education;
- Competing studies regarding whether class size is a sole indicator of student achievement;
- If limiting the number of students in a class and investing more funds in classroom will produce a better education system; and
- The rationale for choosing school wide averages as an alternative to class size averages.

The following speakers appeared before the committee: Bill Montford, CEO, Florida Association of District School Superintendents and Ruth Melton, Director of Legislative Relations for the Florida School Boards Association.

Upon a roll call vote, CP 0030 was reported favorably by a vote of 7-1.

SR 0038 by the Governmental Services Committee, an act relating to Department of Corrections’ alternative incarceration efforts, was temporarily postponed.

Commissioner Turbeville presented CS/CP 0040, a resolution proposing to authorize the Legislature to fund private or religious providers of public services, such as health care and education, and to authorize the public to choose among such service providers as permitted by law. Issues of interest discussed included:

- How the passage of the proposal would affect the state constitutional establishment clause; and
- The impact of providing state funding for programs based on a sense of entitlement.

The following speakers appeared before the committee: David Barhey, Southern Area Council for the Anti-Defamation League and Pat McConnell.

Upon a roll call vote, CP 0040 was reported favorably by a vote of 5-2.

Commissioner Hogan presented CS/CP 0045, a resolution proposing to limit the growth of government spending.

The following speakers appeared before the committee:

- Victor Wilhelm, Engineering Technician Principal

- Sarah Lovett
- Cheryl Stuart, Association of Florida Community Developers
- Edward Labrador, Legislative Counsel for Broward County
- Chip Morrison, General Counsel for Florida League of Cities, Inc.
- David Biddulph and Adam Guilette, Americans for Prosperity
- Jeff Hunt
- Chris Lyon, Attorney for Florida Association of Specil Districts
- Bob McClure President and CEO, James Madison Institute
- Kurt Wenner, Florida TaxWatch
- Trey Price, Public Policy Representatives, Florida Association of Realtors
- Barry Poulson, Americans for Prosperity Foundation
- John W. Smith, Legislative Director for Florida Association of Counties
- Allen Douglas, Legislative Affairs Directors, National Federation of Independent Businesses
- Jim Tait, Executive Director, Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy
- Pat McConnell
- Donna Arduin

Topics of interest discussed included:

- Amendment 5 and 6 which excluded counties with consolidated local governments from revenue limits;
- Impact of revenue limits on airports and ports;
- Revenue limits impact on the concept to replace the required local effort for public school system;
- Impact of revenue limits on special districts; and
- Voter approval concept on revenue limits proposal

There were six amendments to CP 0045. Amendment numbers 5 and 6 were withdrawn. The substitute amendment for amendment one and other proposed amendments were adopted. Upon a roll call vote, CP 0045 was reported favorably as a committee substitute for committee substitute by a vote of 6-4.

Chair Lacasa thanked the committee members for their attendance and participation in the process. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

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