

Finance and Taxation Committee
Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
Senate Office Building, Room 301
Tallahassee, Florida
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
July 18, 2007

Committee Members: *Susan Story, Chair; Barney Barnett, Martha Barnett, Julia Johnson, Bruce Kyle, Patricia Levesque, John McKay, Randy Miller, James Scott, Ken Wilkinson, Brian Yablonski*

Members Present:

Susan Story, Chair
Barney Barnett
Martha Barnett
Julia Johnson
Bruce Kyle
Patricia Levesque
Randy Miller
James Scott
Ken Wilkinson
Brian Yablonski

Other Commissioners Present:

Allan Bense, Chair
Gwen Margolis

Excused Absences:

John McKay

The Finance and Taxation Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Story at 1:04 p.m.

Staff called the roll and announced the presence of a quorum.

Chair Story reviewed the charge of the committee as stated in statute and identified four key education topics of interest that she asked the committee to consider. Those topics include:

- Detailed overview of the current local and state tax structure
- Statutory and constitutional analysis of obligations, limitations, historical context and other relevant information relative to the tax and spending structure in Florida
- Twenty year projections of revenues and expenditures, forecasted gaps, and critical areas of shortages/surpluses
- Review of 1990 TBRC discussion topics and recommendations

The group agreed that these were the key education topics of interest.

Executive Director Susan Skelton presented a list of corporate and university resources that the committee might consider as consultants, analysts, and/or speakers to address their topics of interest. Those resources include:

Corporate Resources -

- Deloitte Touche
- McKinsey and Company
- PriceWaterhouseCoopers
- BearingPoint
- Accenture

University Resources -

- Center for Economic Forecasting and Analysis
- Florida Institute of Government
- Bureau of Economic and Business Research
- Center for Economic Policy Analysis

Director Skelton reminded the members that university groups often require a longer timeline to complete their analysis than the committee can afford and suggested that utilizing the services of one or more of the corporate financial consulting firms might be better suited to their needs.

Commissioner Levesque recommended that the committee seek outside national experts in tax and budget policy.

Chair Story reminded the group that, in addition to outside experts, many of the Commission members have expertise in certain areas and may serve as a valuable resource as well.

Commissioner Wilkinson volunteered to serve the committee by sharing his expertise in portability and ad valorem issues.

Vice Chair Scott suggested that the group may need outside expertise to evaluate the ideas presented during the education phase on such topics as state financing, portability, and education funding.

Commissioner Kyle pointed out that it would be helpful to have several experts with various takes on a given topic to ensure the members receive a well-rounded review.

Commissioner Johnson requested that the outside experts the committee retains understand the changing multi-cultural demographics and provide the group with extensive diagnostics.

Commissioner Margolis recommended that the group look at the school funding formula and the required local effort impacts on local property taxes and local government.

Commissioner Martha Barnett asked for clarification on the process for members to institute constitutional and statutory suggestions. Chairman Bense responded that it is his preference that members vet their suggestions through the committee process for debate by the full Commission.

Chair Story announced that the group would discuss and vote on the specifics of future meeting dates, locations, and speakers during the committee's July 20 meeting.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 1:45 p.m.