

Meeting Minutes
Taxation and Budget Reform Commission Meeting
412 Knott Building
Tallahassee, Florida
July 20, 2007
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Barney Barnett
Martha Barnett
Mike Hogan
Julia Johnson
Carlos Lacasa
Patricia Levesque
Alan Levine
Roberto Martinez
Jacinta Mathis
Robert McKee
Lesley “Les” Miller, Jr.
Randy Miller
Jade Moore
Nancy Riley
Darryl Rouson
Susan Story
Kenneth “Ken” Wilkinson
Brian Yablonski
James Scott, Vice Chair
Allan Bense, Chair

Members Present by Phone (not voting):

Mark Bostick
Greg Turbeville

Members Excused:

Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte
Mike Haridopolos
Bruce Kyle
Gwen Margolis
John McKay
Frank Peterman
Ray Sansom

Chair Allan Bense called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Staff called roll and announced the presence of a quorum.

Chair Bense called on Governmental Services Committee Chair Roberto Martinez to give his committee report. Chair Martinez reported on today's presentations by the Florida School Boards Association by Dr. Wayne Blanton; the Florida Association of District School Superintendents by Dr. Bill Montford; Washington County Superintendent Calvin Stevenson; Hillsborough County Superintendent Jim Hamilton; Mr. Mark Pritchett, Executive Vice President of the Collins Center; Dr. Doug Tuthill of the Collins Center; and Mr. Robert Nabors on behalf of the Constitutional Adequacy Commission. He reported that several issues related to the lack of flexibility in implementing the class size requirements in the Constitution, and the delivery of innovation and efficiencies in the delivery of education services were discussed. Chair Martinez announced a tentative meeting schedule for the Governmental Services Committee for August and September. That schedule will be posted on the commission website.

Committee Chair Carlos Lacasa reported that the Planning and Budgetary Processes Committee had presentations from Dr. Jim Zingale, Executive Director of the Department of Revenue, and Ms. Cynthia Kelly, Staff Director of the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee. He asked staff to work on getting a future presentation on detailed information on demographic projections from the Office of Economic and Demographic Research.

Commissioner Patricia Levesque reported on the Governmental Procedures and Structure Committee on behalf of Chair Alan Levine. She reported that the committee had presentations from Mr. Ben Watkins, Director of State Bonding on debt and bonding issues; Mr. Robert Nabors, former member of the 1998 Constitutional Revision Commission on constitutional history issues; Ms. Debby Kearney, General Counsel of the Department of Education and former General Counsel of the 1998 Constitutional Revision Commission on federal and state constitutional issues; and TBRC General Counsel Thomas Cibula on assigned areas of constitutional study.

Chair Story reported that the Finance and Tax Committee received presentations by Dr. Jim Zingale on the state's tax and revenue sources, and from Ms. Cynthia Kelly on the state's budget preparation process. The committee then discussed options for defining a scope of work for use of outside experts and defined specific areas of interest for future educational presentations to the committee.

Chair Bense proposed a list of public hearing dates, and members commented on suggestions for additional meeting locations and meeting times. Staff will begin to finalize plans for the public hearings and post a final list of dates and times in the near future.

Members discussed methodology for making proposals to the Commission and directed staff to draft language for review and adoption. The members further discussed the final voting process and again asked staff for recommended draft language on the procedure.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.