

Governmental Procedures and Structure Committee  
Taxation and Budget Reform Commission  
Senate Office Building, Room 401  
Tallahassee, Florida  
Friday, August 17, 2007  
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

## MEETING MINUTES

*(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:

Mike Hogan  
Julia Johnson  
Patricia Levesque, Acting Chair  
Jacinta Mathis  
Greg Turbeville  
Ken Wilkinson  
Alan Bense, TBRC Chair

### Excused Absences:

Alan Levine, Chair  
Carlos Lacasa  
Nancy Riley  
Darryl Rouson  
Brian Yablonski

Acting Chair Levesque called the Governmental Procedures and Structure Committee meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

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

Acting Chair Levesque introduced Senator Don Gaetz who addressed the committee on the local education budgeting process. Sen. Gaetz shared his suggestions with the group on specific proposals to be considered as TBRC legislative recommendations or constitutional amendments. Sen. Gaetz made five primary recommendations to the committee: 1) Address the Bush v. Holmes decision regarding vouchers to protect the other voucher programs; 2) Enact a constitutional amendment to prescribe the legislature as the authority over the setting of tuition and fees of universities; 3) Look at the issue of “uniformity” in the constitution in light of customization of education for students in the future, specifically recommending statutory changes to the public education funding formula to reward learning vs. seat time; 4) Give citizens the option to have subdivided,

smaller school districts; and 5) Amend the class size requirements in the constitution to remain at the school level average and use this in relation to property tax amendment.

Commissioner Hogan requested that a copy of the Senator's remarks be circulated to the members as soon as possible for consideration and debate at a future meeting.

The committee then entertained a presentation by David Ramba and Terry Lewis of the Florida Association of Special Districts related to special taxing districts. When asked about reserves by Commissioner Turbeville, Mr. Lewis explained that special districts have no specific rules related to the amount they must maintain in reserve, but that they tend to follow the example of cities and counties. In response to a question about the number of special districts that have been dissolved over the years, Mr. Lewis explained that very few have been dissolved in the past decade. However, 50-60 inactive special districts were officially removed from the records all at once following the special taxing district laws going into effect.

Any presentation documents and audio recordings of the meeting are posted on the commission website at [www.floridatbrc.org](http://www.floridatbrc.org) for further review.

Acting Chair Levesque shared a list of topics for further discussion at future meetings and asked for the members to add others they would like to have addressed. The list included:

- Florida League of Cities recommendations from previous presentation
- GASB 45
- Debt caps and obligation
- Florida School Board Association follow up to Senator Gaetz's recommendations
- FEFP and the funding formula
- Board of Governors and Chancellor Rosenberg follow up to Senator Gaetz's recommendations
- Blaine Amendment
- Consolidation process in Jacksonville, including advantages and disadvantages
- Vouchers

Acting Chair Levesque recommended that the September 20 committee meeting in association with the Jacksonville public hearing might be a good time to arrange for local experts to address the group on the consolidation effort.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.