

State Tax Panel

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 29, 2014

3:00 PM in Room 2E

PRESENT: Anika Singh Lemar, Lou Schatz, Tiana Gianopulos, Don Marchand, Yolanda Kodryzcki, Alan Clavette, Robert Testo, John Elsesser, Bill Nickerson, Howard K. Hill, Al Casella, Marian Galbraith, Melinda Agsten, Rep. Widlitz, Sen. Fonfara, Sen. Frantz, Sec. Barnes

ABSENT: John Soto, Bill Dyson(conflict), Bill Breetz(out of state), David Nee,(conflict) Rep. Williams,(out of state) Rep. Sharkey, Sen. Williams, Cmsr. Sullivan(out of state)

Rep. Widlitz called the meeting to order at 3:11 PM and introduced herself and Sen. Fonfara. She thanked the various stakeholders for their efforts in putting together the panel. She then explained the charge of the committee and noted that no Legislators will be serving as voting members.

The panel members proceeded to introduce themselves.

Rep. Widlitz thanked the members and explained that the world has changed and the last time there was a major study was 1991. She expressed optimism that the panel would be able to put recommendations forward that will help the state move forward.

Sen. Fonfara thanked the panel members and explained the panel's charge. He read PA 14-217 Sec. 137 which states the panel's charge.

Rep. Widlitz then asked for nominations for the position of Co-Chairs.

Robert Testo nominated Bill Nickerson and Bill Dyson to serve as the Co-Chairs of the panel. It was seconded by John Elsesser. Alan Clavette then motioned to close nominations. Motioned passed on a voice vote.

Co-Chair Nickerson thanked the panel members and Co-Chairs of the Finance Committee. He explained that the panel should focus on finding ways to make the tax code more efficient using revenue neutral principles. Political decisions, such as finding new revenue sources, must fall to the Legislature. He also explained that he hopes all members feel welcome to chime in.

Sen. Fonfara noted that the economic development charge should be part of the discussion and that business interests should be welcomed.

Co-Chair Nickerson agreed and said that Sec. C of the statute requires that there are going to be subcommittees and to let Mary Finnegan know if they are interested in serving on one of them. He went on to say there is a budget on consulting and Sec. Barnes has a list of approved contractors. He also noted that OFA is available.

Sec. Barnes noted that in addition to OFA there will be DRS and OPM staff available to assist the panel.

Sen. Frantz said that the Finance committee has a history of being very bi-partisan and expressed his belief that the panel will continue that tradition and look toward the long term interests of the state.

Co-Chair Nickerson agreed and said that party interests shouldn't matter and that it will be task-oriented.

Co-Chair Nickerson then asked for a tentative meeting date.

Mary Finnegan reminded the panel that CCSU may be available for future meetings.

Rep. Widlitz noted that former Sen. Eileen Daily is now at CCSU and that she has offered CCSU's resources to the panel.

Anika Lemar and Lou Schatz stated their availability.

Co-Chair Nickerson then said that the next meeting would be the week of October 20th in the late afternoon.

Yolanda Kodryzcki asked that the list of contractors be made available by Sec. Barnes.

Sec. Barnes stated that there are three firms that may be available for consulting and that he will circulate the list.

Co-Chair Nickerson explained the lengthy process for becoming an approved state contractor and explained why it may make sense to select an already approved contractor.

Co-Chair Nickerson then adjourned the meeting at 3:49 PM

Mary E. Finnegan
Administrator

Billy Taylor
Committee Clerk