

**FINAL**  
**Minutes of Open Session**  
**Legislative Council Meeting**

Thursday, September 25, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.  
Room H161 • State Capitol Building  
Lansing, Michigan

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members Present:**

Speaker Andy Dillon, *Chair*  
Senator Michael Bishop, *Alternate Chair*  
Senator Jason Allen, *Member*  
Senator Alan Cropsey, *Member*  
Representative George Cushingberry, Jr., *Member*  
Representative Michael Sak, *Member*  
Senator Mark Schauer, *Member*  
Senator Samuel Buzz Thomas III, *Member*  
Representative Steve Tobocman, *Member*  
Senator Cameron Brown, *Alternate Member*  
Representative Robert Dean, *Alternate Member*  
Representative Andy Meisner, *Alternate Member*  
Senator Alan Sanborn, *Alternate Member*  
Representative Glenn Steil, Jr., *Alternate Member*

**Individuals Present:**

Steve Benkovsky, Legislative Council Facilities Agency  
Susan Cavanagh, Office of the Legislative Council Administrator  
Lisa Dedden, Office of the Senate Minority Leader  
Fred Hall, Senate Republican Policy Office  
Traci Kanillopoolos, Legislative Service Bureau  
Wendy Larner, Office of the House Speaker  
John Lazet, Senator Cropsey's Office  
Cami Pendell, Office of the Senate Majority Leader  
Elliott Smith, Legislative Service Bureau  
John Strand, Legislative Council Administrator  
Bill Sullivan, Office of the Senate Majority Leader  
Others were present, but were not identified.

**Members Excused:**

Representative Craig DeRoche, *Member*  
Senator Bruce Patterson, *Member*  
Representative Chris Ward, *Member*  
Senator Tupac Hunter, *Alternate Member*

**ITEM 1. Convening of the Meeting**

Speaker Dillon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked the clerk to call the roll. A quorum was present. **Senator Cropsey moved, seconded by Representative Tobocman, to excuse all absent members. There was no further discussion. All absent members were excused.**

**ITEM 2. Appointment of Legislative Corrections Ombudsman**

The Chair called on Legislative Council Administrator John Strand to brief the members on what has transpired to date in regards to the on-going interview process to appoint the Legislative Corrections Ombudsman (LCO). Mr. Strand reported that there have been over 60 applicants for the position and two rounds of interviews have been held. Mr. Strand noted that a representative from the Speaker's Office, the Senate Majority Leader's Office, and the Legislative Service Bureau Human Resource Office have been involved in the interview process. He further explained that although statute does provide for the appointment of the Legislative Corrections Ombudsman by the Legislative Council, the timing of legislative session and the scheduling of another Council meeting could pose a delay in the appointment. He offered that granting appointment authority to the Speaker and the Senate Majority Leader would avoid any potential delay in making the appointment and reestablishing the Office of the Legislative Corrections Ombudsman. In response to an inquiry made by Representative Cushingberry, Mr. Strand detailed the posting procedure used for the LCO position which included the position being posted on the *LSBSource* website and the Civil Service Job posting site at michigan.gov. It was also posted at the Wayne State University Law School, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, MSU College of Law, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, University of Michigan Law School, and sent electronically to all Senators and their staff and all Representatives and their staff. In addition, it was sent via ID mail to the Senate Human Resource Office, Senate Fiscal Agency, House Human Resource Office, House Fiscal Agency, House Democratic Policy Office, Legislative Council agencies, and Legislative Service Bureau Divisions. Mr. Strand shared that it is not standard practice to advertise vacant Council positions in newspapers and noted that the posting time for the LCO position was extended to allow additional opportunity to those who wished to apply. Representative Cushingberry stressed the importance of finding the best qualified candidate for the position and requested any decision not be based on an October 1 deadline. Senator Cropsey concurred with Representative Cushingberry's comments and Representative Tobocman recommended the Chair and Alternate Chair take as much time as

needed to make sure the right person is appointed to the position. After further discussion, Senator Thomas made the suggestion that the process for this, and other matters affecting Council agencies, be more inclusive of all four quadrant leaders. The Chair thanked the Senator and assured members that he still considers the LCO appointment to be a deliberative process. When a recommendation is made, he will disseminate the information to all members of the Council. **Representative Cushingberry moved, supported by Senator Cropsey, to grant the authority to the Chair and Alternate Chair of the Legislative Council to appoint the Legislative Corrections Ombudsman in 2008. The Legislative Corrections Ombudsman shall serve at the pleasure of the Council and all Council members shall receive notification of the appointment. There was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously adopted.**

<b>Yeas—11:</b>	<b>Speaker Dillon</b>	<b>Senator Bishop</b>
	<b>Representative Cushingberry</b>	<b>Senator Allen</b>
	<b>Representative Sak</b>	<b>Senator Cropsey</b>
	<b>Representative Tobocman</b>	<b>Senator Schauer</b>
	<b>Representative Steil</b>	<b>Senator Thomas</b>
		<b>Senator Brown</b>

**Nays—0**

**ITEM 3. Public Participation**

The Chair asked for public participation. There was none.

The Chair provided an update on the Legislative Council budget and noted that work on the budget has progressed and recommendations have been made since the last meeting. He stated that the Legislative Council budget will be distributed to all members within the next month.

**ITEM 4. Adjournment**

The meeting was recessed at the Call of the Chair and was not reconvened pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

Respectfully submitted,

John Strand, Secretary

*(Approved at the February 24, 2011 Legislative Council meeting.)*