

Final Minutes

Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency Meeting

11:00 a.m. • Thursday, February 14, 2008

Senate Appropriations Room • State Capitol Building

Members Present:

James Curran, Chair
Kevin Prokop, Co-Chair
Georgi-Ann Bargamian
Mitch Bean
Fern Griesbach
Charles Moore
Gary Olson
Michel Sussman

Members Excused:

None

I. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and asked the clerk to take the roll as members introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

II. Comments from Representative LaJoy

State Representative Phil LaJoy was present and the Chair called on him to address the Commission. Representative LaJoy provided some background on the legislation that created the Commission and thanked the members for their willingness to serve. He also encouraged the members to bring forward any recommendations for efficiencies as they are determined instead of waiting until the Commission's final report is due. The Chair inquired if any thought had been given to allow the Commission to focus on reviewing not only the business practices and processes of the State, but to also look at the policy that drives many state programs. The Representative responded that he felt the law is open enough in terms of the Commission looking at different areas and he would be interested in any comments the Commission has to offer.

III. Discussion of Future Meetings and Commission Activities

The Chair then summarized the three phase process it has been suggested the Commission follow for the next few months including inviting representatives from the Executive branch to the second meeting for an oversight presentation and meeting with a number of outside groups that have taken a look at similar issues at the third meeting in April. There was no objection and the Chair asked members to give some thought as to what specific groups should be invited to come before the Commission and ideas on how to gain input from the public. There was also no objection to Friday being the day of the week to hold future Commission meetings. Mr. Prokop concurred with the process and remarked that the first few meetings would be used to get the perspective of other groups with a second phase used to break down into work groups which could focus on specific areas that cater to the member's knowledge and expertise. Mr. Olson invited the Commission to utilize the resources of the Senate Fiscal Agency and Mr. Bean extended the same offer of assistance.

IV. Remarks by the Senate Majority Leader

Senator Bishop began by thanking the members for their service on the Commission and noted his appreciation for the expertise and knowledge each member has to offer as the Commission begins its work. He then commented on the scope and intent of the mandate and added that the mission of the body is very broad and could include an examination of policy if that is what the Commission determines is necessary to be most effective.

V. Presentation and Overview of the State Budget and Appropriation Process

Mr. Bean began with an overview of Michigan's budget and provided members with a number of publications including an Appropriations Summary and Analysis for Fiscal Year 2007-08, Act 51 Primer, Guide to the Legislative Appropriations Process, and Michigan's Capital Outlay Process. Mr. Olson then provided information on the appropriation process and an appropriation bill structure. He noted it is important to remember that funds are appropriated by program and not by specific services. A discussion of the budgeting process followed and Mr. Moore inquired if there is any information beyond Fiscal Year 2009. Mr. Bean responded that there are no long-term budget numbers or projections available, but he will send members the House Fiscal Agency's estimated FY 2009-10 spending pressures. Benchmarking performance data and comparisons from other states was also raised and Mr. Olson explained that the fiscal agencies have the ability and would be willing to pull this information together.

VI. Potential Staff Resources Available to the Commission

The Chair called on John Strand to report on the potential staff resources that are available to the Commission. Mr. Strand noted there are a number of sources including the Legislative Service Bureau, Auditor General Reports, the Executive branch, Central (partisan) staff, outside groups, and university staff.

VII. Public Comments

The Chair asked for public comment. There was none.

VIII. Comments from the Chair

In order to determine what expertise is missing in consideration of the vacant position on the Commission, the Chair called on each member to provide a brief summary of the skill set they bring to the table. After each shared their information, they were asked to let the co-chairs know if there is any particular skill set that the Commission should recommend the Senate Majority Leader and the Speaker of the House look for in their search to fill the vacant position.

Next, the Chair explained that the Speaker was in session and could not be at today's meeting. The Chair shared some of the Speaker's ideas including having the Commission review the operational reviews the Speaker's staff has gathered and presenting to the Senate Majority Leader the idea of setting up a joint legislative committee so that a process is in place and ready to respond to any Commission recommendations. The issues of developing standards, identifying benchmarks, and the process of arriving at targets were also discussed. Bringing forward a couple of recommendations in a relatively quick period of time was proposed by the Chair and he suggested reviewing the reports the legislature requires of the departments could be an area the Commission could begin to focus on.

IX. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

The Commission scheduled **Friday, March 21, 2008**, from **9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** and **Friday, April 25, 2008**, from **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** for the next two meetings. A proposed agenda will be sent to members when prepared.

(Approved at the March 21, 2008 Commission Meeting)