

FINAL
Minutes of Open Session
Legislative Council Meeting
Thursday, February 28, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.
Senate Appropriations Room • State Capitol Building

ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Senator Michael Bishop, *Chair*
Speaker Andy Dillon, *Alternate Chair*
Senator Jason Allen, *Member*
Representative George Cushingberry, Jr., *Member*
Representative Craig DeRoche, *Member*
Senator Bruce Patterson, *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 Andy Meisner, *Alternate Member*

Members Excused:

Senator Alan Cropsey, *Member*
Representative Chris Ward, *Member*
Representative Robert Dean, *Alternate Member*
Senator Tupac Hunter, *Alternate Member*
Senator Alan Sanborn, *Alternate Member*
Representative Glenn Steil, Jr., *Alternate Member*

Individuals Present:

Steve Benkovsky, Legislative Council Facilities Agency
John Beutler, Secretary of Senate's Office
John Bollman, Legislative Service Bureau
Joe Carrasco, Senate Fiscal Agency
Susan Cavanagh, Office of the Legislative Council Administrator
Marcia Cornell, Legislative Service Bureau
Darlene DePeel, Legislative Service Bureau
Karen East, Legislative Service Bureau
Fred Hall, Senate Republican Policy Office
Craig Hildenbrand, Legislative Council Facilities Agency
Traci Kanillopoulos, Legislative Service Bureau
Suzanne Mendel, Legislative Service Bureau
Cami Pendell, Senate Majority Leader's Office
Cindy Peruchiatti, Speaker's Office
Chris Powers, Legislative Service Bureau
Elliott Smith, Legislative Service Bureau
John Strand, Legislative Council Administrator
State Senator Michael Switalski
Others were present, but were not identified

ITEM 1. Convening of the Meeting

Senator Bishop called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. and asked the clerk to call the roll. A quorum was present. **Senator Bishop moved, seconded by Senator Allen, to excuse all absent members. There was no further discussion. All absent members were excused.**

ITEM 2. Election of Officers

Senator Allen moved, supported by Representative Tobocman, to elect Speaker Andy Dillon Chair of the Legislative Council for 2008. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Yeas—11:	Senator Bishop	Speaker Dillon
	Senator Allen	Representative Cushingberry
	Senator Patterson	Representative DeRoche
	Senator Schauer	Representative Sak
	Senator Thomas	Representative Tobocman
	Senator Brown	

Nays—0

Senator Patterson moved, supported by Representative Tobocman, to elect Senator Michael Bishop Alternate Chair of the Legislative Council for 2008. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Yeas—11:	Senator Bishop	Speaker Dillon
	Senator Allen	Representative Cushingberry
	Senator Patterson	Representative DeRoche
	Senator Schauer	Representative Sak
	Senator Thomas	Representative Tobocman
	Senator Brown	

Nays—0

ITEM 3. Approval of the Minutes of the June 21, 2006 Legislative Council Meeting

Senator Bishop moved, supported by Senator Thomas, to adopt the minutes of the June 21, 2006 Legislative Council meeting. There was no discussion. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Yeas—11:	Senator Bishop	Speaker Dillon
	Senator Allen	Representative Cushingberry
	Senator Patterson	Representative DeRoche
	Senator Schauer	Representative Sak
	Senator Thomas	Representative Tobocman
	Senator Brown	

Nays—0

ITEM 4. Reappointment of George Ward to the Michigan Law Revision Commission

Mr. Strand provided a brief explanation of the Michigan Law Revision Commission and noted that Mr. Ward's biography is included in the member's information packet. **Representative Tobocman moved, supported by Senator Thomas, to reappoint George Ward to a 4-year term ending December 31, 2011 on the Michigan Law Revision Commission. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Yeas—11:	Senator Bishop	Speaker Dillon
	Senator Allen	Representative Cushingberry
	Senator Patterson	Representative DeRoche
	Senator Schauer	Representative Sak
	Senator Thomas	Representative Tobocman
	Senator Brown	

Nays—0

After the vote, Representative Meisner commented that Mr. Ward was his legislative drafting professor at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

ITEM 5. Legislative Council Budget: FY 2007–2008

Speaker Dillon called on Legislative Council Administrator John Strand to briefly describe the role of the Legislative Council and to explain the services provided by the Legislative Service Bureau's Research Division. The Chair then asked Mr. Strand if he is aware of the number of members who utilize the services of the Research Division and whether it would be fair to say that the numbers are less than what they were ten or twenty years ago. Mr. Strand agreed that generalization could be made, but noted that the volume of services provided by the Research Division in the last few years has increased. A discussion of the Legislative Council budget followed. The Speaker raised a concern that some LSB bill drafters may not be adequately compensated. In response to a question from Representative Sak, Mr. Strand explained that Council employees are not classified or unclassified under Civil Service, but part of a merit pay system set up years ago by the Council. He also clarified that although the Legislative Council's budget was reduced by 5% last year, Council employees did not receive a 5% reduction in pay and no one had their pay reduced because of the cut. Representative Tobocman then asked for a clarification of the Capitol Maintenance Fund and the National Association dues allocation. Mr. Strand explained that the Capitol Maintenance Fund was originally set up for some needed repairs to the Capitol Building, but a bond issue has since been put forth in a supplemental appropriation bill making the need for the fund less necessary. He continued with a history of the national dues payments over the last few years and noted that the specific allocation is a legislative determination. Representative Cushingberry commented that it would be helpful to have details on the number of employees per division and information as to whether the pay of Bureau attorneys is comparable to the Bar average. He stressed that part of the problem is that the State has undervalued the public service work of attorneys at the

Legislative Service Bureau and suggests using a merit system that fits the Civil Service object codes so that it will make sense to anyone looking across all of government. The Speaker asked that the members take Mr. Strand's recommendations under advisement and that the vote on the budget be postponed to give members an opportunity to review the budget more thoroughly. He suggested that the Legislative Council meet again in a month or so to approve the Council budget and noted that he and Senator Bishop will schedule a meeting with Mr. Strand as soon as possible to discuss the budget in more detail. He encouraged Council members to provide input before the meeting so that their wishes can be incorporated into the discussion.

ITEM 6. Staffing and Personnel Report

A staffing report listing the number of employees of the Legislative Council agencies and a personnel report listing Council employees hired since the last Council meeting were presented to the Council members. Mr. Strand provided an update and a description of the Legislative Council hiring process which includes notifying all legislative offices of any Legislative Council staff openings.

ITEM 7. Public Participation

The Chair asked for public participation. There was none.

ITEM 8. Adjournment

Having no further business, Representative Tobocman moved, supported by Senator Patterson, to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Strand, Secretary

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