

Final Minutes

Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates Meeting

2:00 p.m. • Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Conference Center/West Oakland Room ▪ Oakland County Executive Office Building

2100 Pontiac Lake Road • Waterford, Michigan

Members Present:

Amanda Van Dusen, Chair
Ralph "Skip" Maccarone
Dennis Pollard
J. Dallas Winegarden, Jr.

Members Excused:

Robert Daddow, Co-Chair

I. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and the clerk took the roll. A quorum was present. Mr. Daddow's absence was excused.

II. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair asked for a motion to approve today's meeting agenda. **Mr. Pollard moved, supported by Mr. Maccarone, to approve the June 25, 2008 agenda. There was no further discussion. The agenda was unanimously approved.**

III. Approval of Minutes – May 27, 2008 Meeting

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates meeting. **Mr. Pollard moved, seconded by Mr. Maccarone, to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2008 meeting. There was no further discussion. The minutes were unanimously approved.**

IV. Update from Citizens Research Council

The Chair called on Mr. Eric Lupher of the Citizens Research Council to provide an update on the status of the research they are conducting on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Lupher reported their intern is no longer with them, but they are making good progress and may not need to replace her at this point. He shared that they have gathered some information detailing what other states define to be a mandate, either statutorily or constitutionally, and he will forward that information to the Commission members later this week.

V. Comments from the Chair

The Chair noted that the report from the Michigan School Business Officials is progressing and should be ready by the next meeting date. She then opened a discussion of the progress made relative to the framework put together before the reports from the associations were received and how to determine if what has been reported is really a mandate. Also discussed was the need to categorize each of the mandates identified by the groups into three buckets—items that do not meet the definition of a mandate, items that clearly meet the definition of a mandate, and items that arguably or practically meet the definition of a mandate and merit review by the Commission. Items in the first category might be referred to the Commission on Government Efficiency or reported as something that may warrant review by the Legislature. The items in the last two buckets would be forwarded to Michigan State University so they can focus their attention on preparing a cost analysis.

VI. Discussion with Eric Scorsone of Michigan State University

A discussion of the difficulty in accurately determining the cost of a mandate and ways to insure the Legislature takes the cost factor of any future legislation into consideration followed. The Chair called on Mr. Eric Scorsone to share his thoughts on these concerns. Mr. Scorsone commented he is confident they can conduct an econometric analysis of the information through a survey to determine a reasonable estimate of the cost of the mandate. He also feels this information would be useful in suggesting a valid methodology the Legislature could use to analyze the cost of a mandate in the future. He estimates he will be able to prepare the cost analysis within three months once they receive a classification of the information into the three buckets. Commissioners Pollard and Maccarone agreed to take on the task of evaluating and sorting the information from the reports into the appropriate category.

VII. Additional Comments

The preparation of an interim report from the Commission to the leadership of the House and Senate was also discussed as well as a possible need to extend the timeline the final Commission report is due. There was general consensus that it is clear the Legislature is open to working with the Commission and would be willing to adjust the process if necessary.

Mr. David Bertram from the Michigan Township Association inquired if the Commission would be willing to look at other mandates that may not have been submitted in the reports, but subsequently identified. The Chair responded that the Commission understands there may be other items and is reluctant to limit the list to those mandates already submitted. She asked that any additional items be forwarded to the Commission clerk as soon as possible.

VIII. Public Comments

The Chair asked for public comment. There were none.

IX. Next Meeting Date

A discussion of the date of the next meeting followed. The Chair announced that the next meeting will be held on **July 23, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.** in Lansing.

X. Adjournment

Having no further business, Mr. Pollard moved, supported by Mr. Winegarden, to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

(Approved by the Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates at the July 23, 2008 meeting.)