



OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

REVISED MINUTES OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND VOTING COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014

Call to Order:

Chair Richard Saphire called the meeting of the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee to order at 12:37 p.m.

Members Present:

A quorum was present, with Chair Saphire, Vice-chair Jacobson, and committee members Amstutz, Bell, Clyde, Fischer, Gilbert, Peterson, and Skindell in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

There being no quorum, the minutes of the February 13, 2014 meeting of the committee were not approved.

Discussion:

A discussion took place regarding procedure and protocol for disposition of issues and public input. Senator Mike Skindell moved for the following procedure: a constitutional provision will be posted online as a notice for the agenda; the provision will be discussed at the first meeting; after the discussion, a vote will take place on the preliminary recommendation for the particular provision; the provision and preliminary recommendation will be posted on the website for public input and discussion at the subsequent second meeting; and a vote for recommendation to the full Commission will take place at the second meeting (adoption or rejection of the recommendation). The motion was seconded and approved with one objection by Mr. Jacobson.

The committee then considered a series of motions for a preliminary recommendation relating to various constitutional provisions. A motion was made and seconded for a preliminary recommendation to repeal Article V, Section 8, relating to term limits for United States Senators

and Representatives, as clean-up process, which motion was seconded. The motion passed with the following vote:

Saphire – aye
Amstutz – aye
Bell – aye
Peterson – aye
Skindell – aye
Jacobson – nay
Clyde – nay
Fischer – nay
Gilbert – abstained

Committee member Ed Gilbert moved for a preliminary recommendation to amend the provision by affirmatively stating that there are no term limits for these federal offices. There was no second.

The committee then considered motions for a preliminary recommendation to retain the language in the following provisions: Article I, Section 2 (Right to Alter, Reform or Abolish Government, and Repeal Special Privileges); Article I, Section 6 (Slavery and Involuntary Servitude); Article I, Section 13 (Quartermen Troops); Article I, Section 17 (Hereditary Privileges); and Article I, Section 20 (Powers Reserved to the People). These motions were seconded and unanimously approved.

The committee then discussed procedure and public notification for other constitutional issues that are more complex and may be more controversial. The need for notification and for inviting professionals and experts to speak on these provisions was discussed. Specifically, committee members noted a need for input regarding Article I, Section 21 (Preservation of the Freedom to Choose Health Care and Health Care Coverage).

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Approval:

The minutes of the April 10, 2014 meeting of the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee were approved.

/s/ Richard Saphire
Richard Saphire, Chair

/s/ Jeff Jacobson
Jeff Jacobson, Vice-chair