



OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015

Call to Order:

Chair Kathleen Trafford called the meeting of the Coordinating Committee to order at 12:30 p.m.

Members Present:

A quorum was present with committee members Trafford, Davidson, Fischer, and Obhof in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the January 15, 2015 were unavailable at the time of this meeting and will be presented to the committee for approval at the March 12, 2015 meeting.

Reports and Recommendations

Article IV, Section 19 (Courts of Conciliation)

Article IV, Section 22 (Supreme Court Commission)

Committee member Sen. Obhof presented these two reports and recommendations, both of which recommend repeal of obsolete provisions in the Constitution.

Article IV, Section 19 (Courts of Conciliation) was original to the 1851 Constitution, and was designed to resolve disputes without the traditional legal process. The General Assembly recommended eliminating it, as it had never been used, and it appeared on the ballot as Issue 1 in 2011. It was defeated believed to be because it had been paired with a measure that would raise the required age of retirement for judges.

Article IV, Section 22 (Supreme Court Commission) was adopted by Ohio voters in 1875. It was used only once, for one decade or less, it has been 140 years since it was used, and has not been used since.

Sen. Obhof recommends the Coordinating Committee accept both of these reports and recommendations and move them on to the full Commission for consideration.

Chair Trafford questioned whether the Judicial Branch and Administration of Justice Committee has taken final action on these and if they will be their recommendations. Sen. Obhof responded affirmatively.

Chair Trafford confirmed that the committee's review is just as to form. Vice Chair JoAnn Davidson then moved that the committee accept the reports and recommendations and forward them to the Commission. She complimented the reports and recommendations, saying their completeness is really helpful to those who were not on the committee that heard the issue.

The motion being seconded by Committee member Judge Fischer, the committee unanimously voted to forward the reports and recommendations to the full Commission.

Chair Trafford said the presentation of the reports and recommendations to the full Commission would be undertaken by Sen. Obhof.

Committee Discussion:

Executive Director Steve Hollon raised an additional item, stating that the committee will be meeting monthly due to additional reports and recommendations coming forward. He said that next month the committee will need to review reports and recommendations from the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee on Article I, Sections 2, 3, 4. These reports and recommendations were voted out of that committee on February 12, 2015.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Attachments:

- Notice
- Agenda
- Roll call sheet
- Reports and Recommendations: Article IV, Section 19 and Section 22

Approval:

The minutes of the February 12, 2015 meeting of the Coordinating Committee were approved at the March 12, 2015 meeting of the committee.

/s/ Kathleen M. Trafford

Kathleen M. Trafford, Chair

/s/ Jo Ann Davidson

Jo Ann Davidson, Vice-Chair