



OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015

Call to Order:

Chair Kathleen Trafford called the meeting of the Coordinating Committee to order at 12:40 p.m.

Members Present:

A quorum was present with Chair Trafford, Vice-chair Davidson, and committee members Coley, Fischer, and Obhof in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the July 9, 2015 meeting of the committee were approved.

Reports and Recommendations:

Chad Readler, chair of the Education, Public Institutions, and Local Government Committee, provided a review of two reports and recommendations issued by that committee.

Article VI, Section 1 (Funds for Religious and Educational Purposes)

The first report and recommendation presented was on Article VI, Section 1 (Funds for Religious and Educational Purposes). Mr. Readler pointed out that Article VI, Section 1, dealing with the funds deriving from the sale or other disposition of lands or other property granted or entrusted to the state for educational or religious purposes, dates back to the Northwest Ordinance, and helped establish the importance of education to the state. He said the provision related to tracts of land that were set aside in each township for educational or religious purposes. Mr. Readler pointed out that the section gives the General Assembly discretion to use or dispose of funds deriving from these lands, with some lands still providing revenue to local school districts for educational purposes. In the report and recommendation the Education, Public Institutions, and Local Government Committee concludes that Article VI, Section 1 should be retained in its current form.

Chair Trafford reminded the members of the committee that the purpose of their review of reports and recommendations issued by subject matter committees is limited to form and completeness and not as to substance.

Upon motion by Judge Pat Fischer, with a second by Vice-chair Davidson, the committee voted unanimously to approve the report and recommendation for Article VI, Section 1.

Article VI, Section 2 (School Funds)

The second report and recommendation presented by Mr. Readler was on Article VI, Section 2 (School Funds). Mr. Readler noted that this section requires the General Assembly to act to secure a “thorough and efficient” system of public education across the state, and that it was the first of many similar provisions to be placed in the constitutions of other states. He said there had been many presentations to the Education, Public Institutions, and Local Government Committee on this section, particularly the “thorough and efficient” requirement contained in the body of the section. Mr. Readler noted the report and recommendation sets forth the committee’s conclusion that the provision should be retained in its current form.

Upon motion by Sen. Coley, which was seconded by Senator Larry Obhof, the committee voted unanimously to approve the report and recommendation for Article VI, Section 2.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Approval:

The minutes of the October 8, 2015 meeting of the Coordinating Committee were approved at the December 10, 2015 meeting of the committee.

/s/ Kathleen Trafford

Kathleen M. Trafford, Chair

/s/ Jo Ann Davidson

Jo Ann Davidson, Vice-chair