



OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

REVISED MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2013

Call to Order:

Chair Chad Readler called the meeting of the Education, Public Institutions, and Local Government Committee to order at 9:36 a.m.

Members Present:

A quorum was present with Chair Readler, Vice-chair Gilbert, and committee members Beckett, Brooks, Clyde, Huffman, Sykes, and Taft in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the May 9, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Presentations and Discussion:

Chair Readler called on John Barron of the Ohio Casino Control Commission to address Article XV (Miscellaneous). Mr. Barron's testimony reflected on Article XV, Section 6(C) of the constitution. He gave an overview of Section 6, an explanation of the Casino Control Commission, and a general update on the four existing casinos in Ohio. He noted that nothing in the constitution, specifically Article XV, Section 6(C) restricts the Casino Control Commission in any way. In light of House Bill 7 of the 130th General Assembly, Representative Matt Huffman asked whether the committee would consider a clarification of the term "lottery" within the constitution.

Chair Readler recognized Gregory Trout, chief counsel for the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and former chief counsel to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, to address part of Article VII (Public Institutions). Mr. Trout reflected that Article VII, Section 2 appears obsolete when compared to the state's current system of rehabilitation and correction. Providing an overview of the content of Article VII as well as of the state prison system, Mr. Trout then answered committee members' questions.

Chair Readler next called on Stephen Wilson, legislative liaison for the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (n/k/a Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency). Mr. Wilson also addressed Article VII, Section 1, pertaining to “Institutions for the benefit of the insane, blind, and deaf and dumb.” Mr. Wilson suggested several updates to this section, commenting that the language has not been amended since 1851 and is one of the only sections to never be amended in any way. He said the current language in this section does not properly reflect the values of Ohio citizens with disabilities. He added the language also contradicts the work currently being done by the Rehabilitation Services Commission to focus on the abilities of the individual rather than the disabilities.

Chair Readler indicated the committee would discuss local government at the committee’s July 11, 2013 meeting, while education would be discussed at the meeting on August 8, 2013.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Approval:

The minutes of the June 13, 2013 meeting of the Education, Public Institutions, and Local Government Committee were approved at the July 11, 2013 meeting of the committee.

/s/ Chad A. Readler
Chad A. Readler, Chair

Edward L. Gilbert
Edward L. Gilbert, Vice-chair