

**ORGAN COLE + STOCK** LLP  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Representative William G. Batchelder, Speaker & Co-Chair  
Representative Vernon Sykes, Co-Chair

**From:** Douglas R. Cole

**Date:** July 29, 2013

**Re:** Status Report on Committee for Finance, Taxation and Economic Development

The Committee for Finance, Taxation and Economic Development met in May, June and July. The Committee's May meeting was largely for organizational purposes. The Committee discussed various potential avenues to pursue, and concluded that it would like to begin its efforts by obtaining background information relating to each of the subject matter areas (finance, taxation and economic development) that are assigned to it. To that end, in June the Committee heard testimony from Greg Stype (Squire Sanders) and Kurt Kauffman (Debt Manager at Office of Budget and Management) regarding the public finance provisions of the Constitution. Similarly, in July, the Committee heard testimony from Tom Zaino and Joanne Limbach (both of whom are former Ohio Tax Commissioners) regarding the taxation provisions in the Ohio Constitution. During the August meeting, we plan to discuss the information that we have received to date, as well as mapping out a proposal for moving forward including: (1) identifying appropriate speakers for the topic of economic development, (2) identifying addition viewpoints/speakers for the other areas on which we have already received some testimony, and (3) developing a procedure to begin identifying and considering ideas for potential changes to the constitutional provisions assigned to this Committee for study.

If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to ask.