

*Co-Chair*  
*Charleta B. Tavares, Asst. Minority Leader*  
*15<sup>th</sup> Senate District*



*Co-Chair*  
*William G. Batchelder, Speaker*  
*69<sup>th</sup> House District*

## OHIO CONSTITUTION MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

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COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
KATHLEEN TRAFFORD, CHAIR  
THURSDAY JUNE 12, 2014

Chair Trafford called the meeting of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission Coordinating Committee to order at 3:49 pm.

The first order of business was to discuss the minutes of the previous meeting pertaining to subject matter preservation; in particular, clarifying subject matter materials cannot be used for political purposes and whether or not subject matter hearings should be recorded for future reference. Senator Obhof explained there were similar arguments for legislative committees and witnesses are always encouraged to submit written testimony copies for the record. Chair Trafford mentioned an outreach type of position would be helpful in collecting and compiling committee records, including testimony. Senator Obhof mentioned a legislative staff member may be able to compile the data as well. Director Steven Hollon stated the newly hired administrative assistant will play a key role in all outreach and that his office was currently contacting all the chairs, legal counsel, and other staff members responsible for the current record keeping to update and organize all collected information pertaining to the Commission's work.

The second order of business was to clarify minutes from the previous March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting. Senator Obhof moved to amend the first sentence of the third paragraph to reflect that Chair Trafford discussed a conference call that took place between some Chairs of the Subject Matter Committees on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Seconded by Ms. Abaray. Without objection, the motion was approved. Senator Obhof moved to amend the fourth sentence of paragraph four to reflect that Senator Obhof expressed a preference for making such changes sooner, in an effort to simplify and update the current language. Seconded by Ms. Abaray. Without objection, the motion was approved. The minutes were approved as changed.

In the third order business, Judge Fischer discussed reassigning Article 5 Section 9 from the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee to the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee. Judge Fischer explained that this article describes the specification of an appointment to an open seat and how it impacts the normal election cycle for General Assembly members. Judge Fischer explained it more appropriate for this provision to be discussed within the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee as these two groups are impacted by term limit language.

Judge Fischer moved to transfer the discussion on clarifying sit out policies from the Bill of Rights and Voting Committee to the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee. Seconded by Ms. Araby. Professor Steinglass mentioned that Article 2 Section 2 pertains directly to General Assembly members and that Article 5 Section 9 also describes sit out policies for

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General Assembly and Congressional members. Co-Chair Davidson agreed, citing language in Article 5 Section 9 that states "elected or appointed" and explained that Congressional members fulfill a remaining term must be elected, rather than appointed. She suggested the Coordinating Committee confer with the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee prior to assigning Article 5 Section 9 to that committee. Senator Obhof moved to withdraw the motion, and requested Chair Trafford reach out to Chair Frederick Mills of the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee to discuss the appropriate subject matter committee assignment for term limit and sit out policies. Without objection, the motion as approved.

There was brief discussion by Judge Fischer as to whether or not the Constitutional Modernization Commission received any comments or proposals on the Commission's website. Director Hollon stated not many have been posted at this time. Judge Fischer asked whether the Commission should solicit the public for ideas and if someone is currently doing so. Director Hollon stated that someone from the Commission was not directly requesting citizens to submit comments and proposals but that they hope to do so in the future once a communications employee is put in place.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 4:27pm.

Kathleen M. Trafford  
Kathleen Trafford, Chair

John Davidson  
John Davidson, Vice Chair