

Minutes
Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee Meeting
October 21, 2015

Members Present

Senator Fletcher Hartsell, Chair
Senator Stan Bingham
Senator Ben Clark
Senator Valeria Foushee
Senator Ralph Hise
Senator Louis Pate
Senator Jeff Tarte, Advisory

Representative Becky Carney
Representative Ted Davis
Representative Nelson Dollar
Representative Pat Hurley
Representative Jason Saine
Representative Rena Turner

Call to Order

Senator Fletcher Hartsell, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Senator Ben Clark moved to approve the October 7, 2015 minutes. Motion carried.

Presentations and Comments

Senator Hartsell recognized Senator Rick Gunn, Chair of the JLPEOC Subcommittee on Real Property. Senator Gunn stated that the Subcommittee has asked for modifications to two draft bills and that they should be available for review at the next JLPEOC meeting. One bill directs disposal of several state assets and the other proposes modifications to the operation and management of state property. Senator Bingham asked if copies of the drafts were available. Sean Hamel, Senior Program Evaluator with PED and project lead for the Real Property report replied that after the modifications are made, and at the discretion of the Chair, copies would be distributed to members.

Senator Hartsell recognized Laura Rose and Brenda Erickson from the National Conference of State Legislatures to give a presentation on legislator compensation, session timing and length, and use of technology to improve legislator and public participation.

Member Information Requests Relative to NCSL's Presentation

Rep. Dollar:

Q: Has any work been done as far as being able to get a blended real compensation amount, at least maybe for the neighboring states, an actual real-life comparison?

A: We have that data and will provide it to you

Rep. Hurley:

Q: In addition to compensation, did you consider any benefits they may receive?

A: We do have information on benefits that I can provide, published in the Council of State Governments Book of the States.

Sen. Tarte:

Q: Is there any information that shows where you start changing from a price elasticity or income elasticity standpoint where more people will have an interest in running for elected office because they will be able to have a living wage?

A: There was a study done in Colorado where they made a significant increase and anecdotal evidence was that it increased the numbers running. We are also in the process of collecting demographic data. By end of the year we'll have an idea of how each legislature looks according to various demographic categories.

Sen. Bingham:

Q: Do you have information on the cost to get elected?

A: We do have a lot of information on campaign finance.

Q: Do you have information on automatic cost of living adjustments?

A: In Alabama they have automatic COLA.

Sen. Pate:

Q: You mentioned Alabama, they have turned over pay considerations to an independent agency?

A: They passed a constitutional amendment that establishes that, we can have that pulled and get that to you, the recent one tied it to the median age, and they do have an agency specified to make the determination

Q: Didn't Washington DC turn over pay considerations to an independent agency that considers those items?

A: I'm not sure, I can check

Senator Hartsell announced that Chairs are considering appointing a subcommittee to examine these three areas. Representatives Carney and Hurley and Senators Bingham and Randleman volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

Update on PED Report on Supplemental Insurance Benefits

Senator Hartsell announced that the committee would take no votes but hear an update to PED's August 2015 report *North Carolina Should Centralize Management of State Employee Supplemental Insurance Benefits*.

Senator Hartsell recognized Jeff Grimes, Senior Program Evaluator to explain how PED contacted agency committees or representatives for input and to review their responses.

Approach. PED emailed agencies and universities requesting that employee insurance committees respond to the report. For agencies and universities without an employee insurance committee, PED advised the agencies and universities that they could send comments from an agency representative.

Responses and Declinations. Jeff Grimes explained that the inquiry yielded six responses. The response from the Administrative Office of the Courts was the only response directly from an employee insurance committee. All others were from agency or university officials. In addition to the responses attached, eight agencies/universities and the DHHS employee insurance committee stated that they did not wish to submit comments. East Carolina University and UNC-Chapel Hill