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Assistant Minority Leader
15th Senate District



Co-Chair
William G. Beachelder, Speaker
69th House District

OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

Bill of Rights & Voting Committee
Richard Saphire, Chair
Thursday, April 10, 2014

Chairman Saphire called the meeting of the Bill of Rights & Voting Committee to order at 12:37 PM and asked the committee clerk to call the roll. The following members were present: Chairman Saphire, Vice Chairman Jacobson, Representative Amstutz, Karla Bell, Representative Clyde, Edward Gilbert, Judge Fischer, Senator Peterson and Senator Skindell. A quorum being present, the committee operated as a full committee.

A discussion took place regarding procedure and protocol for disposition of issues and public input. Senator Skindell made a motion for the following procedure: A constitutional provision will be posted on-line as a notice for the agenda; the provision will be discussed at the first meeting; after the discussion, a vote will take place on the preliminary recommendation for handling or disposition of the particular provision; the provision and preliminary recommendation will be posted on the web site for public input/ discussion at the subsequent second meeting and a vote for recommendation to the full commission will take place at the second meeting (adoption or rejection of the recommendation). The motion was seconded and approved with one objection (Jacobson).

After this, a series of motions for preliminary recommendation on various constitutional provisions occurred. A motion was made and seconded for preliminary recommendation to repeal Ohio Constitution Art. V, §8 (Term Limits for U.S. Senators and Representatives) as clean-up process which was seconded. This motion was approved (Ayes: Saphire, Amstutz, Bell, Peterson, Skindell; Nays: Jacobson, Clyde, Fischer and Abstained: Gilbert. Edward Gilbert made the motion for preliminary recommendation to amend the provision by affirmatively stating that there are no term limits for these federal offices. There was no second.

With the following constitutional provisions, there were preliminary recommendation motions to retain the language in the text; the motions were seconded and unanimously approved: Ohio Constitution Art. I, §2 (Right to Alter, Reform or Abolish Government, and Repeal Special Privileges); Art. I, §6 (Slavery and Involuntary Servitude); Art. I, §13 (Quartering Troops); Art. I, §17 (Hereditary Privileges) and Art. I, §20 (Powers Reserved to the People).

A discussion then ensued regarding procedure and public notification for all other constitutional issues that are more complex and that may be more controversial. The need for notification and inviting professionals and experts to speak on these provisions was discussed; in particular, with respect to Ohio Constitution Art. I, §21 (Preservation of the Freedom to Choose Health Care and Health Care Coverage).

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 1:45 PM.



RICHARD SAPHIRE, CHAIR

JEFF JACOBSON, VICE CHAIR