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OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS & UPDATING COMMITTEE
DENNIS MULVIHILL, CHAIR
THURSDAY, March 13, 2014

Chair Mulvihill called the meeting of the Constitutional Revisions and Updating Committee to order at 2:40 p.m. A quorum was present.

Professor Steven Steinglass from Cleveland State University was present and provided testimony on: geographic diversity requirement for ballot initiatives, voting requirements and restrictions for ballot initiatives, statutory versus constitutional ballot initiatives, ways to protect initiated statutes from legislative modification (i.e. requiring supermajority votes, time requirements), and supplemental petition requirement for initiated statutes. Professor Steinglass responded to questions asked by committee members.

Mr. Beckett provided documents to the committee providing information on all proposed amendments to the Ohio Constitution that received votes during an election.

Through a motion by the Chair, the committee tabled further discussion on requiring ballot initiatives to receive a percentage of affirmative votes out of the total number of votes cast in that election without objection.

A discussion was held regarding increasing the vote requirements for successful passage of ballot initiatives as well as introducing a legislative mechanism to create competing ballot language for initiated amendments through the General Assembly.

Through a motion by the Chair, the committee decided to focus future meetings on discussing a mechanism for the General Assembly to create competing ballot language for initiated amendments and on adjusting the supplemental petition requirements for initiated statutes, without objection.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved without objection.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

DENNIS MULVIHILL, CHAIR

CHARLES KURFESS, VICE CHAIR