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OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS & UPDATING COMMITTEE
DENNIS MULVIHILL, CHAIR
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014

Vice Chair Kurfess called the meeting of the Constitutional Revisions and Updating Committee to order at 12:35 p.m. As a quorum was not present, the committee proceeded as a subcommittee.

Professor Steven Steinglass from Cleveland State University was present and provided testimony on his submitted memo regarding strengthening Ohio's statutory initiative.

With a quorum now present at 12:45 p.m. the committee will operate as a full committee.

Representative Curtin proposed that the committee pursue two paths. The first path would seek to encourage the use of Ohio's statutory initiative by reducing the geographic requirement for signatures from 44 counties to 22 counties and by requiring a two-thirds vote in the legislature for a period of five years to change or repeal an initiated statute. The second path would seek to reduce the use of constitutional amendments by increasing the signature requirement from 10% to 15%.

A discussion was held amongst committee members and Professor Steinglass regarding options to encourage the use of initiated statutes over the use of constitutional amendments.

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

Through a motion by Representative Curtin, seconded by Mr. Wagoner, the committee unanimously voted (6-0) to request the Ohio Legislative Service Commission draft amendments to Ohio's initiated statute language to reduce the geographic signature requirement from 44 counties to 22 counties and to require a two-thirds vote from the legislature for a period of five years to change or repeal an initiated statute.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

DENNIS MULVIHILL, CHAIR

CHARLES KURFESS, VICE CHAIR