



OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

REVISED MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2014

Call to Order:

Chair Chad Readler called the meeting of the Education, Public Institutions, and Local Government Committee to order at 9:18 a.m.

Members Present:

A quorum was present with Chair Readler, Vice-chair Gilbert, and committee members Brooks, Clyde, Macon, Sykes, Talley, and Taft in attendance. Senator Tom Sawyer joined the Committee for the hearing as a non-voting member.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the April 10, 2014 meetings were reviewed and approved.

Presentations and Discussion:

As reported by Chair Readler, the committee engaged in a lengthy discussion of the history of the current language in Article VI, Sections 1 through 3, and heard testimony regarding respective proposals made by Chair Readler and Charles E. Wilson, professor emeritus at the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, to revise the current constitutional language. Prof. Wilson, who presented lengthy, detailed remarks, testified that the historical basis for Section 1 may no longer make that section relevant. Prof. Wilson also testified regarding the historical underpinnings of the "thorough and efficient system of common schools" provision in Section 2. Finally, Prof. Wilson addressed early childhood education and how the issue has been addressed in other states. Prof. Wilson concluded his remarks by sharing two alternative proposals for amending Article VI, Section 2.

Two other speakers, Maureen Ready, of the Ohio Friends of Public Education, and Stephen Dyer, of Innovation Ohio, testified in opposition to changes to Section 2's "thorough and efficient" language.

Chair Readler announced that, at its next meeting, the committee would discuss the proposals put forward during recent meetings, and would hear from Senior Policy Advisor Steven H. Steinglass regarding the current necessity of Article VI, Section 1.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned.

Approval:

The minutes of the June 12, 2014 meeting of the Education, Public Institutions, and Local Government Committee were approved at the September 11, 2014 meeting of the committee.

/s/ Chad A. Readler
Chad A. Readler, Chair

Edward L. Gilbert
Edward L. Gilbert, Vice-chair