

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Melvin Neufeld at 9:00 A.M. on February 15, 2005, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department
Amy VanHouse, Legislative Research Department
Reagan Cussimano, Legislative Research Department
Amy Deckard, Legislative Research Department
Julian Efird, Legislative Research Department
Leah Robinson, Legislative Research Department
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
Nikki Feuerborn, Administrative Analyst
Shirley Jepson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:

See attached list.

- Attachment 1 Budget Committee report on Department of Administration and Governmental Ethics Commission
- Attachment 2 Budget Committee report on Department on Aging

SB 8 was referred to Education Budget Committee.

SB 46 was referred to General Government and Commerce Budget Committee.

HB 2468 was referred to Retirement Subcommittee.

Representative Pottorff, Chair of the General Government and Commerce Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Department of Administration for FY 2005 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendation for FY 2005 (Attachment 1). The motion was seconded by Representative Lane. Motion carried.

Representative Pottorff, Chair of the General Government and Commerce Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Department of Administration for FY 2006 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendation for FY 2006 (Attachment 1). The motion was seconded by Representative Lane. Motion carried.

The Budget Committee referred to Item 4 and stated that because of the continual increase in FTE positions in the office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the Budget Committee chose to review this item at Omnibus.

Representative Lane, member of the General Government and Commerce Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governmental Ethics Commission for FY 2005 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendation for FY 2005 (Attachment 1). The motion was seconded by Representative Schwab. Motion carried.

Representative Lane, member of the General Government and Commerce Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governmental Ethics Commission for FY 2006 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendation for FY 2006 (Attachment 1). The motion was seconded by Representative Pottorff. Motion carried.

Representative Lane, member of the General Government and Commerce Budget Committee, presented the

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Appropriations Committee at 9:00 A.M. on February 15, 2005 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

Budget Committee report on the Governmental Ethics Commission for FY 2007 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendation for FY 2007 (Attachment 1). The motion was seconded by Representative Schwab. Motion carried.

The Budget Committee noted that the FY 2007 budget for the Governmental Ethics Commission is presented because the Commission is on a two-year budget cycle. The Budget Committee stated that the reason for the \$11,365 increase in FY 2007, is primarily due to the fact that 2007 is an election year.

Representative Bethell, member of the Social Services Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Department on Aging for FY 2005 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendation for FY 2005 (Attachment 2). The motion was seconded by Representative Henry. Motion carried.

Because of the decrease in the requested funding for the Frail/Elderly (FE) Waiver, the Budget Committee noted that they had asked the Department on Aging to review the funding for this program before Omnibus to insure that this decrease will not create a waiting list.

Representative Bethell, member of the Social Services Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Department on Aging for FY 2006 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendation for FY 2006 (Attachment 2). The motion was seconded by Representative Henry.

In reference to Item No. 13, the Budget Committee noted the importance of the nutritional program for seniors. The Budget Committee has requested that the Department on Aging provide additional detailed information on this program before Omnibus. Responding to a question from the Committee, the Budget Committee stated that the Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) works very well for urban areas. The Budget Committee is encouraging the Department on Aging to request grant funds from the federal government to do a pilot PACE program in the rural areas. In regard to the Senior Care Act, the Budget Committee noted that needs of this program will continue to grow for the aging population. Referencing the Senior Care Act, the Budget Committee noted that they were assured by the agency that adequate funding is available within the existing funds.

The staff turnover rate in the agency, according to Marty Kennedy, Budget Director for the Department on Aging, is 9.5 percent, with approximately twenty vacant positions at the present time.

The Committee expressed concern that regulations within the new Medicaid proposals will have an impact on the amount of federal funds flowing to the state for case management.

Representative Bethell moved to amend the Budget Committee report on the Department on Aging for FY 2006 by adding language requesting the Department on Aging to continue to monitor the flow of federal funds to the agency for case management and report to the Budget Committee. The motion was seconded by Representative Landwehr. Motion carried.

Representative Bethell renewed the motion for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendation on the Department on Aging for FY 2006 as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative Ballard. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 9:00 a.m. on February 16, 2005.

Melvin Neufeld, Chair