



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission
Suite 1100, General Assembly Building, Capitol Square
Richmond, Virginia 23219*

*Philip A. Leone
Director*

(804) 786-1258

MINUTES

November 10, 2003

Attending

JLARC Members: Delegate Lacey E. Putney, Vice Chairman, Presiding; Delegate Harry J. Parrish; Delegate Johnny S. Joannou; Delegate Leo C. Wardrup, Jr.; Senator Charles J. Colgan; Delegate Frank D. Hargrove, Sr.; Delegate Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.; Delegate Dwight C. Jones; Senator Thomas K. Norment, Jr.; Delegate M. Kirkland Cox; Mr. Walter J. Kucharski (ex-officio).

JLARC Staff: Phil Leone; Kirk Jonas; Linda Ford; Glen Tittermary; Trish Bishop; Paula Lambert; Greg Rest; Joan Irby; Nathalie Molliet-Ribet; Eileen Fleck; Laura Whiteley; Tracey Smith; John Long; Jason Powell; Hal Greer; Ashley Colvin; and Jeff Geiger.

Others: Robert Vaughn, House Appropriations Committee; Gary Ford; Mary Jo Fields; Jeff Shapiro; Bob Lewis; Joe Flores, Senate Finance Committee; Bruce Jamerson, Clerk, Virginia House of Delegates; General Manuel Flores (USAR, Ret.); Elizabeth Hawa, Department of Education; Maricel Quintana Baker, Department of Business Assistance; and Carmen Williams.

The Vice-Chairman, Delegate Putney, called the meeting to order and announced that in Senator Miller's absence, he would be chairing the meeting. While the Commission did not have a quorum at 10:05 a.m., Delegate Putney decided to proceed with the regular meeting. Other members arrived and a quorum was achieved at 10:10 a.m. for the remainder of the meeting. Delegate Putney recognized Philip Leone, JLARC's Director. Mr. Leone reviewed the agenda (Enclosure 1) and introduced a new member of the JLARC staff, Ms. Eileen Fleck. Delegate Putney welcomed Ms. Fleck to the staff.

MEMORANDUM

November 12, 2003

Page 2

Mr. Leone noted that the first item on the tentative agenda, relating to the Status Report and Rate Adjustment Requests for the Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA), was removed at the request of the administration. The VITA item will be included on the December meeting agenda.

Mr. Leone then introduced Mr. Kirk Jonas, who provided a status report on JLARC's staff support of HJR 159 (Enclosure 2). Two members of JLARC, Delegate Cox and Delegate Wardrup, serve on the HJR 159 subcommittee. Mr. Jonas also provided a status report of JLARC's staff support of the Council on Virginia's Future (Enclosure 3). He presented an update on the Council on Virginia's Future and noted JLARC's role in the process.

Mr. Leone provided a brief introduction to the "Acclimation of Virginia's Foreign-Born Population" report (see Enclosure 4) mandated by HJR 604 of the 2003 General Assembly Session. Mr. Leone noted that the report had been distributed to three cabinet Secretaries for review and comment. However, JLARC has not received a response from the administration concerning this report. Slides for this report can be found in Enclosure 5. Mr. Leone then introduced, Ms. Linda Ford, the project leader, for the acclimation study.

Ms. Linda Ford presented the findings of the study of the "Acclimation of Virginia's Foreign-Born Population." Delegate Callahan moved and Senator Colgan seconded a motion to receive and print the report. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Slide 82 of the Acclimation of Virginia's Foreign-Born Population (see Enclosure 5) identifies a number of areas where further study on the topic may be needed. For example, some Census Bureau data did not arrive at JLARC in time for the team to completely perform an analysis of it. Mr. Leone asked Commission whether they wanted the staff to continue working in the topic areas identified on slide 82 of the acclimation study. Delegate Wardrup suggested that each topic identified on slide 82 be examined discretely at the Commission's next topic selection work session. Without objection it was decided to discuss the matter at the next topic selection work session to be held prior to the next JLARC meeting in December.

MEMORANDUM

November 12, 2003

Page 3

Mr. Leone noted that the Commission needed to take action on several items identified at previous topic selection work sessions. A memo providing a status report on the topic selection items is included as Enclosure 6. Mr. Leone noted that a JLARC staff review of VITA was previously approved at the July 14, 2003, meeting. In addition, Mr. Leone stated that JLARC staff was conducting an exploratory review relating to tenure practices. JLARC staff will continue to keep the Commission, especially Delegate Hargrove, apprised of their work and any preliminary findings relating to higher education tenure policies.

In addition to the items previously identified at prior topic selection meetings, Mr. Leone noted that the Secretary of Health and Human Resources was proposing a new item for study. Secretary Woods had sent a letter to Senator Miller and Delegate Putney requesting that JLARC conduct a study focusing on the use and financing of trauma centers in Virginia hospitals (Enclosure 7). During the meeting, Senator Stolle sent a letter via fax to the Commission communicating his endorsement of the trauma center study. Mr. Leone shared Senator Stolle's comments with the Commission. A copy of this fax is included as Enclosure 8.

Delegate Parrish moved and Delegate Callahan seconded a motion to approve the items in blocks two and three of the topic selection memo (see Enclosure 6). These blocks include a study of Child Protective Services, ongoing reviews of the development of inter-state comparisons of important benchmark areas, and exploratory study planning relating to higher education tenure policies. All members voted in favor of approving these items for study.

Delegate Wardrup then suggested that the new item proposed by Secretary Woods dealing with trauma centers be considered at the next topic selection work session. Without objection, it was agreed that the trauma study be reviewed at the next topic selection meeting. Mr. Leone suggested that the next topic selection work session could be held before the December 8, 2003, meeting and the Commission agreed without objection.

Mr. Leone reminded the Commission that its next meeting would be on Monday, December 8, 2003 at 10:00 and the topic selection work session would be held prior to the regular meeting. Mr. Leone also noted that the agenda topics

MEMORANDUM

November 12, 2003

Page 4

scheduled for the next meeting would be school performance, fleet management, and VITA rates for the recovery of costs.

As there was no further business, Delegate Putney adjourned the meeting.

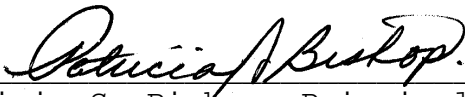
Approved by:


Philip A. Leone, Director

Date:

November 12, 2003

Prepared by:


Patricia S. Bishop, Principal Legislative

Analyst

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