

MINUTES
Legislative Post Audit Committee
January 13, 2016

Call to Order

Welcome by the Chair. The meeting was called to order by Chair Barker at 12:05 in Room 118-N of the Statehouse. The Chair thanked Doug Mays & Associates LLC for providing members' lunch. Committee members present:

Representative John Barker, Chair	Senator Michael O'Donnell, Vice-Chair
Representative Tom Burroughs	Senator Anthony Hensley
Representative Peggy Mast	Senator Laura Kelly
Representative Virgil Peck, Jr.	Senator Jeff Longbine
Representative Ed Trimmer	Senator Julia Lynn

Approval of Minutes. Representative Mast moved approval of the December 10, 2015, minutes. Senator O'Donnell seconded the motion; motion carried.

Performance Audit Topics

Foster Care Performance Audit Scope Statement. Justin Stowe, Deputy Post Auditor, reviewed the draft scope statement developed by the scope statement subcommittee, chaired by Senator O'Donnell. He presented the scope statement, and noted that if the full committee approves the entire scope statement, it would take five audit staff about a year to complete. Scott Frank, Legislative Post Auditor, stated that the full audit would eliminate about half of the audit topics the committee would otherwise be able to approve for 2016.

The Chair noted that officials from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) were present and had asked to address the committee. By consensus of the executive committee, as authorized by Committee Rule 4-5(4), the Chair called on Jeff Kahrs, DCF Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary. Mr. Kahrs stated that the Department supported seven of the eight questions in the audit scope statement, especially the privatization questions. However, he said the Department strongly objected to the question on placement of foster and adoptive children with same-sex couples, contending it was biased and prejudicial.

During subsequent discussion, in response to a question from Representative Peck, Mr. Stowe said staff's intent would be to issue the audit results in multiple reports.

Representative Mast moved approval of questions 1-4. Senator Lynn seconded the motion; motion carried. Representative Mast further moved, seconded by Senator Lynn, that staff conduct the audit on questions 1-4 first, and issue the report on those questions first. Motion carried.

Representative Mast moved approval of questions 6-8, and that the results of that audit be reported out second. Senator Lynn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Representative Peck moved to table question 5. Senator Lynn seconded the motion.

After discussion, Representative Burroughs made a substitute motion to include question 5 as part of the first audit covering questions 1-4. Representative Trimmer seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion failed on a tie vote. Representatives Burroughs and Trimmer asked to be recorded as voting aye on the substitute motion.

Senator O'Donnell moved approval of alternative language for question 5, which he distributed to the committee. Representative Mast seconded the motion.

The Chair made a substitute motion to table question 5 until the April meeting. Representative Peck seconded the substitute motion. During discussion, Senator Longbine encouraged DCF officials to address the concerns behind question 5, and provide the Legislature with information related to its policies and practices on allowing same-sex couples to be adoptive or foster parents. The Chair indicated that under Committee Rule 4-5(4), the executive committee had determined that DCF officials and the public would be allowed to testify on the issue at the April meeting.

The Chair's substitute motion carried.

Committee Organization

Electing New Committee Leadership. The committee needed to elect a chair, vice-chair, and a third executive committee member. Because this is an even-numbered year, the chair needed to be a senator and the vice-chair a House member. By committee rule, no more than two of the three members may be from the same party.

Senator Longbine nominated Senator O'Donnell to be Committee Chair for 2016. Representative Mast seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

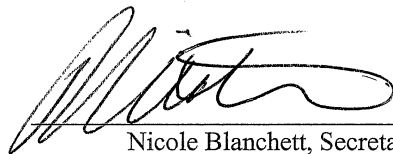
Representative Mast nominated Representative Peck to be Vice-Chair for 2016. Senator O'Donnell seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Senator Hensley nominated Senator Kelly to be the third member of the executive committee and member of the contract audit committee. Representative Trimmer seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Wrap-Up

Date of the next meeting. Mr. Frank indicated he would work with Senator O'Donnell to pick the next meeting date.

Adjournment. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:11 p.m.



Nicole Blanchett, Secretary
Legislative Post Audit Committee

3-9-16

date

All handouts and other documents referred to in these minutes are on file with Legislative Post Audit. Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim and have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.