

MEETING SUMMARY

**STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL
LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM
LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE**

**Friday, October 25, 2013
Upon Adjournment of the Legislative Council
Committee Room B, MAC Building
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Senator Jim Hendren, the Acting Chair of the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program Legislative Task Force, called the initial meeting of the Task Force to order at 2:30 p.m.

MEMBERS OF THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Jim Hendren, Acting Chair; Senator Cecile Bledsoe; Senator Eddie Cheatham; Senator Linda Chesterfield; Senator David Sanders; Representative Harold Copenhaver; Representative Bill Gossage; and Representative Allen Kerr.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Jonathan Dismang; Senator Jane English; Senator Bill Sample; Representative John Catlett; Representative John Hutchison; Representative Sheilla Lampkin; Representative Reginald Murdock; Representative Jim Nickels; Representative Betty Overbey; Representative Terry Rice; and Representative John Vines.

Selection of Permanent Task Force Officers

Senator Hendren announced that Senator Jonathan Dismang, at the request of Senator Jason Rapert, a member of the Task Force, would make remarks about the setup of the Task Force.

The Honorable Jonathan Dismang, State Senator, District 28, was recognized. Senator Dismang presented options for leadership of the Task Force. He recommended electing a chair to represent the Task Force as a whole and a vice chair to represent the Task Force as a whole, and made a motion in that direction. The motion was seconded. *Pursuant to the motion by Senator Dismang, and without objection, the motion was carried.*

Senator Hendren opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Task Force. *Pursuant to a motion by Senator Linda Chesterfield to nominate Senator Jim Hendren, and seconded by Senator Cecile Bledsoe, the motion was carried without objection.*

Senator Hendren opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair of the Task Force. *Pursuant to a motion by Senator Linda Chesterfield to nominate Representative Harold Copenhaver, and seconded by Representative Bill Gossage, the motion was carried without objection.*

Adoption of Task Force Rules

Presenter & Synopsis:

Ms. Alix Stephens, Staff Attorney, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Stephens reviewed the proposed rules, which were drafted using existing committee rules as a guide. She covered the purpose of the Task Force, its duties, and its responsibilities as defined by legislation. She said that if the Task Force adopts these proposals, it shall observe the rules when conducting the business of the Task Force. She then detailed parliamentary procedure.

Pursuant to a motion by Senator David Sanders to adopt the rules, and seconded by Representative Bill Gossage, the motion was carried without objection.

Handout:

State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program Legislative Task Force Rules

Review of the Provisions of Act 6 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2013

Presenter & Synopsis:

(Due to a scheduling conflict, Ms. Alix Stephens made the presentation for Ms. Sarah Ganahl, Staff Attorney, Bureau of Legislative Research.)

Ms. Alix Stephens, Staff Attorney, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Stephens stated that Acts 3 and 6 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2013 are identical, and are effective October 21, 2013. She reviewed the provisions of the Acts, including clarifying duties and responsibilities of the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board. She commented that two (2) members with experience in employee benefits management or in risk management from the private sector have been added to the board, increasing the number of members from twelve (12) to fourteen (14). She said the current board member appointments end on November 20, 2013 and a new board is going to be seated on December 1, 2013. She noted the Governor's appointments are subject to Senate confirmation. Ms. Stephens mentioned additional changes with respect to health insurance options, to school districts' health insurance expenditures, and to provisions for annual education of employees regarding health savings account requirements and options. She said the Task Force was created to study and recommend additional changes to the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program, including the governance structure and general operations. She stated a preliminary report is due on or before June 30, 2014, and a final report must be filed on or before June 29, 2015.

Contributor to the Discussion:

Ms. Sarah Ganahl, Staff Attorney, Bureau of Legislative Research

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- importance of Act 6, page 2, lines 28-34, regarding funding,
- seriousness of the work of the Task Force,
- the crisis will be back in fourteen (14) months if the problem is not fixed, and
- preparing solid recommendations for the legislature to act on in 2015.

Exhibit:

Exhibit E – Act 6 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2013

Senator Hendren recognized **Mr. Bob Alexander**, Director, Employee Benefits Division (EBD), Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A) and **Mr. Doug Shackelford**, Deputy Director, Employee Benefits Division (EBD), Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A).

Senator Hendren said he appreciated the willingness of all of the members to serve. He said, with Representative Copenhaver as Vice Chair, he looked forward to working with the Task Force to do a thorough job.

Discussion of Future Meeting Dates for the Task Force

Senator Hendren said the meetings of the Task Force would align, as much as possible, with the meetings of the House and Senate Interim Committees on Education.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Tuesday, December 10, 2013, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol

Tuesday, January 7, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol

Tuesday, February 4, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol

Handout:

Schedule of Legislative Committee Meetings

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Approved: 12/17/13