

**MINUTES
TAX REFORM AND RELIEF LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE
AUGUST 31, 2017**

The Tax Reform and Relief Legislative Task Force met on Thursday, August 31, 2017, at 1:30 p.m., in Room A-MAC, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Task Force members present: Senators Jim Hendren, chair, Jonathan Dismang, Joyce Elliott, Bart Hester, Keith Ingram, Missy Irvin, and Larry Teague; Representatives Lane Jean, chair, Frances Cavanaugh, Jim Dotson, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Joe Jett, Matthew Pitsch, and Warwick Sabin.

Other legislators present: Senators Alan Clark, Lance Eads, Jane English, Trent Garner, Jim Hickey, Jr., Bruce Maloch, and Eddie Joe Williams; Representatives Fred Allen, Mary Bentley, LeAnne Burch, Charlie Collins, Carol Dalby, Andy Davis, Vivian Flowers, Justin Gonzales, Ken Henderson, Douglas House, John Maddox, John Payton, Aaron Pilkington, Marcus Richmond, Laurie Rushing, Johnny Rye, Jeff Williams, and Carlton Wing.

Senator Hendren called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve Minutes from the July 11, 2017, Meeting [Exhibit B]

The minutes from the July 11, 2017, Tax Reform and Relief Legislative Task Force meeting were approved by acclamation.

Summary of the Request for Proposal (RFP) Responses

Ms. Jill Thayer, Counsel to the Director, Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR), was recognized and provided binders to the task force containing contract information from five vendors who responded to BLR's second request for proposals, their bid proposals, and references. Respondents to the RFP and their proposed bids were: BKD LLC of Little Rock, \$550,000; Postlethwaite and Netterville (P&N) of Baton Rouge, \$198,000; PFM Group Consulting LLC of Philadelphia, \$312,750; Quarles and Brady LLP of Washington, D.C., \$210,000; and WC Mitchell and Associates of North Little Rock, \$217,550. All vendor bids include the cost of hiring support staff with the exception of Quarles and Brady, which has one professional consultant solely responsible for performing the work of the task force.

Ms. Thayer gave a brief overview of each vendor's executive summary, a vendor price comparison table, and an RFP documentation check list. She advised P&N did not submit the necessary documents needed to meet the RFP requirements.

Senator Teague made a motion to exclude P&N from the RFP bids; with a second by Representative Dotson, the motion carried.

Mr. George Ernst, legislative attorney, BLR, was recognized to answer questions regarding vendor references. Mr. Ernst stated WC Mitchell provided four references of which two did not provide phone numbers.

Consideration by the Task Force to invite several of the Consulting Companies to present their Proposals

Representative Dotson made a motion to invite the four consultants to present their proposals at the next task force meeting; with a second by Senator Teague, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.