

MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

The meeting of the Local Government Commission was called to order by Senator John Eichelberger, Jr., at 8:50 a.m. in 14 East Wing–Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with the following individuals present:

MEMBERS

Senator John H. Eichelberger, Jr., Chairman
Senator Scott E. Hutchinson
Representative Chris Ross
Representative Mauree Gingrich
Representative Kate Harper
Representative Robert L. Freeman
Representative Mary Jo Daley

STAFF

Philip H. Klotz, Executive Director
David A. Greene, Assistant Director-Legal Counsel
Kris Gazsi, Associate Legal Counsel
Karen S. Bear, Secretary

GUESTS

Senator Robert Teplitz
Justin Leventry, Senator Hutchinson's Office
Nathan Akers, Senator Hutchinson's Office
Jonathan Hendrickson, Senator Teplitz's Office
Rob Gaertner, House Local Government Committee (R)
Ashley Sheaffer, House Local Government Committee (R)
Lisa Schaefer, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
Ed Troxell, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Ron Grutza, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Joe Regan, Fraternal Order of Police

As the first order of business, Senator Teplitz requested that the Commission introduce amendatory language that would clarify residency requirements for active military service members. Current language fails to address the disruption of residency due to active military service. Senator Teplitz seeks legislation that provides for active military personnel to have what is deemed to be sustained residence during deployment or active duty for the purpose of satisfying preconditions for election or appointment to local office. Proposed language was provided to the Commission Members for each of the municipal codes as well as suggested language for Title 53. Senator Teplitz concurred with Commission Member Senator Hutchinson's recommendation that it would be preferable for the Commission to introduce the language due to the bipartisan nature of the Commission. The Executive Director requested that the pertinent stakeholders, municipal associations, and Commission Members review the preliminary language and forward any comments to Commission staff prior to the Commission's May 11, 2016, business meeting, at which time the Members will take official action on Senator Teplitz's request.

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The Members discussed the minutes of the March 16, 2016, business meeting, which were unanimously approved on a motion by Senator Hutchinson and a second by Representative Ross. The financial report for the month of March 2016 was presented, and a detailed explanation was given by the Executive Director. The financial report was unanimously approved on a motion by Representative Ross and a second by Representative Gingrich.

The Executive Director recognized Associate Legal Counsel Kris Gazsi and requested that Mr. Gazsi update the Members on the County Code revision. Mr. Gazsi reported that the County Code is expected to be introduced after the Commission reorganizes at the beginning of the 2017-18 legislative session. Prior to the County Code's introduction, a few articles remain to be reviewed and approved by the County Code Revision Committee. Also, the Commission's summer intern Mark Bogush will aide in the various items that need to be finished for the completion of the County Code revision. The Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) began drafting Articles I through XVI and will receive the remainder of the articles to be drafted by mid-Summer of 2016. Upon the anticipated conclusion of the LRB's legislative draft of the County Code in late summer and fall of 2016, the Commission staff will proofread the articles and prepare an executive summary of legislation. In winter of 2016 the County Code Revision Committee will meet finally to discuss legislation prepared for introduction in early 2017. It was noted by the Executive Director that the revision to the County Code began in 2010.

As the last order of business, Representative Harper thanked Commission Executive Director Phil Klotz and Assistant Director/Legal Counsel David Greene for the presentation to be given today at the 9:30 a.m. House Local Government Committee (HLGC) meeting. Mr. Klotz and Mr. Greene will apprise the HLGC Members about the Commission's role and what assistance that can be provided to the Members of the General Assembly.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

ATTESTED: _____
May 2, 2016