

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2007

CONTACT: Kathy Torian
(850) 921-8905

Taxation and Budget Reform Commission Announces Standing Committee Assignments

TALLAHASSEE – Chairman Allan Bense today announced the substantive standing committee assignments for the 29 members of the 2007-08 Taxation and Budget Reform Commission.

“I want to thank each of the Commission members for their commitment to the important work ahead,” said Chairman Bense. “I look forward to rolling up our sleeves and meeting the challenges facing our state and local governments over the coming months. Together we can accomplish great things for the state.”

The Taxation and Budget Reform Commission examines the state budgetary process, revenue needs and expenditure processes of the state. Members analyze Florida’s tax structure as well as governmental productivity and efficiency. The commission also reviews policy as it relates to the ability of state and local governments to tax and adequately fund governmental operations.

The following assignments to the four substantive standing committees of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission became effective May 10, 2007, and end at the conclusion of the work of the Commission.

Governmental Services

Roberto “Bobby” Martinez, Chair
Barney Barnett
Martha Barnett
Mark Bostick
Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte
Bruce Kyle
Robert “Bob” McKee
Lesley “Les” Miller, Jr.
Randy Miller
Jade Moore
James “Jim” Scott

Governmental Procedures & Structure

Alan Levine, Chair
Mike Hogan
Julia Johnson
Carlos LaCasa
Patricia Levesque
Jacinta Mathis
Nancy Riley
Darryl Rouson
Greg Turbeville
Kenneth “Ken” Wilkinson
Brian Yablonski

-next-

Finance and Tax

Susan Story, Chair
Barney Barnett
Martha Barnett
Julia Johnson
Bruce Kyle
Patricia Levesque
John McKay
Randy Miller
James "Jim" Scott
Kenneth "Ken" Wilkinson
Brian Yablonski

Planning and Budgetary Process

Carlos LaCasa, Chair
Mark Bostick
Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte
Mike Hogan
Jacinta Mathis
Robert "Bob" McKee
Lesley "Les" Miller, Jr.
Jade Moore
Nancy Riley
Darryl Rouson
Greg Turbeville

Non-voting Members

Senator Mike Haridopolos
Senator Gwen Margolis
Representative Frank Peterman
Representative Ray Sansom
(Non-voting members may participate in any committee discussions)

Below is a summary of the scope of each of the four substantive standing committees:

The Governmental Services Committee will be responsible for examining the revenue needs of the state and its local governments and evaluating the demand and requirements for operational services and capital facilities by state and local government during the next twenty years. The committee will examine constitutional limitations on expenditures at the state and local level. It will determine what services are provided, how they are currently financed, at what level of service they are provided, and how the costs of the services are projected to change over the next twenty years. It will identify the reasons for the rise in service expenditures, assess the impact of the projected service inventory, and recommend any needed constitutional or statutory changes.

The Governmental Procedures and Structure Committee will be responsible for examining governmental efficiency and productivity at both the state and local levels. It will determine what techniques are used in the state to improve the cost effectiveness of the delivery of services. It will assess the impact of these techniques and evaluate the constitutional and statutory constraints which impede their use. It will determine what measures could be instituted to realize additional revenues from existing tax sources. The committee will also examine the existing pattern of governance and the division of responsibilities in the state to determine if they promote governmental efficiency and effectiveness and enable governmental operations and capital facilities to be funded adequately.

The Finance and Taxation Committee will be responsible for examining the appropriateness of the tax structure of state and local governments. It will investigate how governmental activities in Florida are funded and how the existing structure is projected to function in the next twenty years. It will assess the effects of the current financial structure and determine the methods favored by the citizens of the state to fund the levels of service identified by the Governmental Services Committee. It will examine the constitutional and statutory limitations on finance and taxation and make appropriate recommendations.

The Planning and Budgetary Processes Committee will be responsible for examining the state budgetary process. It will identify the financial planning and budgeting systems used by state and local governments in Florida and assess their purpose, operation, and effect. It will review the state and local financial planning, budgeting, and needs assessment processes to determine whether the resulting information adequately supports a strategic decision making process. It will identify the statutory and constitutional constraints on state and local financial planning and budgetary processes and make appropriate recommendations for change.

The committees will meet for the first time for organizational purposes prior to the full Taxation and Budget Reform Commission meeting on May 18. The committee members will be discussing the scope of each of the committees and making suggestions for accomplishing the goals and objectives of the committees based on that scope.

The schedule for the May 18 meetings in Tallahassee is as follows:

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.:	Governmental Services Committee Room 221, Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street
	Governmental Procedures and Structure Committee Room 229, Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.:	Finance and Tax Committee Room 221, Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street
	Planning and Budgetary Processes Committee Room 229, Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.:	Taxation and Budget Reform Commission Meeting Room 412, Knott Building 404 South Monroe Street (See attached agenda)

###