

Florence County

LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2014

In attendance: Chairman Edwin Kelley; Supervisors Larry Neuens, Don Gardner, and Holly Wahlstrom-Stratton; appointed members Ron Yadro and Fred Erwin. Supervisor Edward Wenger was noted as absent.

Also in attendance: Land Conservation Department Administrator - Margie Yadro.

Chairman Kelley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the second floor conference room at the courthouse.

Wahlstrom-Stratton moved to accept the agenda as drafted, supported by Erwin, all were in favor.

On a motion by Wahlstrom-Stratton, a second by R. Yadro, all were in favor to accept the previous Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes as submitted.

Old Business:

A – County Board Action:

There was no County Board legislative action taken in December, 2013.

B – Educational Reform:

Later in the agenda

C – Replies from Departments/Outside Agencies:

M. Yadro shared Administrator responses received since the last meeting.

AB-251: allows a county to seek reimbursement for expenses incurred in confining a prisoner in jail. (11/14/13 referred to Committee on Judiciary and Labor) Sheriff Jeff Rickaby supports this action. On a motion by Wahlstrom-Stratton, a second by Erwin, a letter of support will be requested for County Board consideration with response forwarded to area legislators.

AB-396: relating to absentee voting at residential care facilities (amendments offered 1/8 and 1/21/2014). Correspondence from the Town of Florence opposes this bill due to the possibility of incurring additional expenses. Gardner moved to table this item indefinitely, supported by R. Yadro. All were in favor.

SB-408: relating to school district bonds, promissory notes, and state trust fund loans (11/21/13 read first time and referred to Committee on Education). R. Yadro believed that there is no objection from Florence Schools to this bill as the local district wants to be financially transparent and motioned that this item be sent to the Florence School District with support, a second by Gardner. All were in favor.

AB-476: relating to local regulation of nonmetallic mining; air and water quality; use of explosives; highway use contracts; and borrow sites and material disposal sites for transportation projects of the Department of Transportation (11/12/13 Fiscal Estimate received as indeterminate, affecting towns, counties, villages, cities and others). With no further comments received, Wahlstrom-Stratton moved to table this item indefinitely, supported by Erwin. All were in favor.

AB-288: relating to county payments to public libraries in adjacent counties (1/15/14, Assembly Substitute Amendment). Chairman Kelley read a response submitted by the local library opposing this action. R. Yadro believed this to be a localized issue and moved to table this item indefinitely, supported by Gardner. All were in favor.

AB-343: relating to the distribution by schools of a concussion and head injury information sheet and the participation by pupils in a youth athletic activity (10/4/13 referred to Committee on Rules). R. Yadro stated that the local school district does not have an issue with the bill's intent, but with the wording. R. Yadro moved to table this item indefinitely, supported by Gardner. All were in favor.

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AB-270: relating to additional providers in the volunteer health care provider program and proof of financial responsibility and malpractice insurance requirements for certain advanced practice nurses serving as volunteer health care providers (1/22/14, available for scheduling, 1/23/14 added a co-author). R. Yadro motioned to place this on the next Legislative Advisory Committee meeting agenda, seconded by Wahlstrom-Stratton. All were in favor.

New Business:

AB 512: relating to expanding the requirement of county board approval of a town amendment of its zoning ordinances (12/17/13, public hearing held). As Florence County does not meet the population levels affected, Gardner motioned to table this item indefinitely, supported by Neuens. All were in favor.

LRB-1940/1: relating to school district expenditures for community programs and services and requiring the exercise of rule-making authority. Gardner believed that this issue will be sent back in bill form. R. Yadro motioned to forward this item to the school superintendent and chief financial officer for their consideration, supported by Wahlstrom-Stratton. All were in favor.

LRB-2673/2: relates to counting low-income pupils for state school aid purposes; calculating the amount to be appropriated for state general school aid; school aid factors; special adjustment aids; hold harmless aid; per pupil aid; school district revenue limits; the first dollar and school levy property tax credits; and making an appropriation. Wahlstrom-Stratton moved that this be forwarded to the school superintendent and chief financial officer, supported by R. Yadro. All were in favor.

Wahlstrom-Stratton expressed her interest in continued support of rail access. She asked that the Committee be prepared to offer their legislative voice to Economic Director Wendy Gehlhoff when needed. Wahlstrom-Stratton also referenced a letter from U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin. Addressed to the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Baldwin asked that forest road management be treated historically along with other provisions subject to the Farm Bill that she felt are critical to Wisconsin's forest products industry and to the state's private forest owners. On a motion by R. Yadro, supported by Gardner, All were in favor to draft a letter to Senator Johnson once the ANSWERS Committee has taken a position.

R. Yadro asked that the Committee consider scheduling future meeting to accommodate the school superintendent. Gardner asked after the school's commitment to attend.

Under Group Discussion and/or any other legislative business, SB 549 relates to the following: authorizing independent charter schools, eliminating instrumentality charter schools, establishing magnet schools, replication process for certain operators of charter schools, and utilizing an alternative process for educator effectiveness (1/16/64 Senator Vukmir withdraws as co-sponsor). R. Yadro reports that the local public district is opposed completely to how these schools are funded. Wahlstrom-Stratton asked if charter schools also escape accountability. Wahlstrom-Stratton moved to oppose AB 549, supported by R. Yadro. Motion passed.

On a motion by Neuens, supported by Gardner, all were in favor to adjourn and meet again in February at a mutually convenient time. Kelley and M. Yadro will schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Yadro
Legislative Advisory Committee Secretary