

Minutes
Indiana Lobby Registration Commission
Public Meeting
January 22, 2013 10:30 a.m.
Room 270, Market Tower
10 W. Market Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Members Present: Sue Scholer, Jan Abbs, John Whikehart, and Joe Micon

Member Unable to Attend: None

Staff Present: Charles Harris, Executive Director & General Counsel, and Amy Nicholson, Assistant Director

Others in Attendance: Robin Beck, Elizabeth Hodge, Angela Loth, Debbie Rolfsen, and Mindy Westrick

Call to Order

On January 22, 2013, the public meeting of the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission was called to order at approximately 10:35 a.m. by the Chairperson of the Commission, Sue Scholer.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Abbs moved approval of the minutes of the Commission's Executive Session and the minutes of its Public Meeting both held on November 27, 2012. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Micon and unanimously approved by a voice vote of the Commissioners.

Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget Report

Mr. Harris reported that there are no new revisions to the Commission's budget for fiscal year 2012-2013. Based on information available on January 8, 2013, the remaining balance of the Commission's budget for fiscal year 2012-13 was \$142,262. The available balance represents 52.32% of the Commission's \$271,910 appropriation for the fiscal year with less than one-half of the fiscal year remaining.

Budget Request for 2013-2015 Biennium

Mr. Harris reviewed the Commission's proposed budget request for the 2013-2015 biennium, which includes \$285,300 for fiscal year 2013-14 and \$296,000 for fiscal year 2014-15. He said that the Commission's annual line item appropriation has been flat lined at \$271,910 since July of 2008. He then explained that it would take about \$296,000 in today's dollars to

have equivalent purchasing power when you consider the actual rate of inflation from July 1, 2008 to July 1, 2012 and assume a 2.5% rate of inflation for the fiscal year that ends June 30, 2013. Mr. Harris also stated that the proposed budget increases are needed for the Commission to be able to:

- (1) acquire the equipment it will need to establish a workable resource room for lobbyists and the general public;
- (2) replace the equipment used by staff as needed to keep pace with changes in technology; and
- (3) provide reasonable salary adjustments for its staff.

He indicated that the Commission's budget would increase by 4.92% for fiscal year 2013-14 and 3.75% for fiscal year 2014-15 under the proposal. Commissioner Abbs commented that the increases are very reasonable. Commissioner Micon moved approval of the proposed budget request for the 2013-2015 biennium. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Whikehart and unanimously approved by a voice vote of the Commissioners.

Reorganization of Commission's Office

Mr. Harris reported that the development of a plan for reorganization of the Commission's office continues to be a work in progress. He said that he will be reporting back to the Commissioners with suggested position descriptions and other recommendations in the near future.

Legislation Introduced for the 2013 Session

Mr. Harris briefly reviewed those SECTIONS of four separate bills that have been filed for the 2013 legislative session and that would affect IC 2-7 (Lobbyist Registration and Reporting) or IC 5-14-7 (Reporting by Employers of Legislative Liaisons) in some way. The four bills on which he reported are SB 163, SB 281, SB 601, and HB 1006. Following Mr. Harris' report, the Commissioners discussed the status of the proposed amendments to IC 2-7 and IC 5-14-7 that the Commission previously endorsed. Commissioner Abbs reported that some on the Senate side had become concerned over a provision dealing with reporting by employers of legislative liaisons. She noted that the provision had been inserted into a proposed draft along with the legislation proposed by the Commission although the provision had never been reviewed nor endorsed by the Commission. Chairperson Scholer said that the legislation offered by the Commission will not be included in a separate bill at this time but may be amended into a vehicle bill or other proposed legislation at some point. In response to a question from the Commissioners, Ms. Nicholson said that the data base project has been put on hold pending a resolution of the legislative issues. As a result, it would not be possible to implement some elements of the Commission's legislative proposals during 2013.

Comments

Chairperson Scholer called for other comments from Commissioners or others in attendance. No comments were offered.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Abbs moved to adjourn the meeting. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Micon and unanimously approved by a voice vote of the Commissioners. The time of adjournment was approximately 10:59 a.m.