

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDITING COMMITTEE (JLAC)

MEETING SUMMARY

October 3, 2011

Members in attendance:

Senator Jim Norman, Chair
Representative Debbie Mayfield, Vice Chair
Representative Larry Ahern
Representative Daphne D. Campbell
Senator Arthenia L. Joyner
Senator Evelyn J. Lynn
Representative Bryan Nelson
Representative Kenneth Roberson
Senator Maria Lorts Sachs
Senator Stephen R. Wise

Representative Jeff Clemens was excused.

Discussion of a request for an audit of the City of Hollywood received from Senator Sobel

Senator Eleanor Sobel presented her request for an Auditor General audit of the City of Hollywood.

Jim Spearing, Florida Police Benevolent Association, spoke in support of the audit request.

Senator Joyner moved that the Committee direct the Auditor General to conduct an operational audit of the City of Hollywood. She further moved that the Committee allow the Auditor General to set the scope of the operational audit based on the financial-related issues and concerns facing the City, providing that the concerns of Senator Sobel are addressed; and timing of the audit as audit resources are available, consistent with his work plan and so as not to jeopardize the timely completion of statutorily mandated assignments. The scope should include a review of any policies and procedures that the City has established in response to the findings included in the report issued on the City's revenue forecasting practices or the recommendations of the firm hired to provide consulting services related to the City's budget development process and financial management.

The motion passed without objection.

Discussion of a request for an audit of ABATE of Florida, Inc., received from Representative Nelson

Representative Nelson presented his request for an Auditor General audit of ABATE of Florida, Inc.

James "Doc" Reichenbach spoke representing ABATE of Florida, Inc.

R.C. (Robert Conroy) representing BOLT (Bikers of Lesser Tolerance) and Big Bend Bikers for Freedom, spoke in support of the audit request.

Some members of the Committee indicated they wanted to discuss the ABATE contract with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles at a later date.

Representative Nelson withdrew his audit request.

No vote was taken regarding the request for an audit.

Presentation and discussion of Transparency Florida

Mike Jones, Policy Coordinator with Systems Design and Development, demonstrated the Transparency Florida website.

Mark Frederick, OPPAGA, demonstrated OPPAGA's Government Program Summaries (GPS) and its association with Transparency Florida.

Kathy DuBose, JLAC Coordinator, presented the draft report on the status of and recommendations for Transparency Florida. The Committee is required by law to provide the report to the Governor, Senate President, and Speaker of the House by November 1.

Follow-up discussion of Auditor General Report No. 2011-069, Payroll and Personnel Administrative Processes at Selected State Agencies - Operational Audit

Jennifer Reeves, Audit Coordinator, Office of the Auditor General, presented an overview of the audit.

Sharon Larson, Director, Division of Human Resource Management, Department of Management Services, spoke regarding the audit findings and corrective actions for her agency.

Mark L. Tallent, Jr., Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Corrections, discussed the findings regarding the Department of Corrections and procedures now in place to remedy many of the problem areas.

Senator Wise suggested tracking state employee salary rates so that compensatory leave is paid at the rate it was earned. He also suggested that the appropriate substantive committee should develop legislation to do this.

The Chair suggested the Committee write a letter to the appropriate substantive committees that states there is an audit that speaks to compensatory leave payouts and we would like it addressed. Senator Lynn offered that as a motion. The motion passed without objection.

Update on entities the Committee took action against in April 2011 for failing to file required financial reports

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not discussed.