

COMMITTEE ACTION
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDITING COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 9, 2009

Members in attendance:

Senator Alex Diaz de la Portilla, Chair
Representative Marti Coley, Alternating Chair
Representative Joseph Abruzzo
Senator Andy Gardiner
Representative Charles McBurney
Representative Ron Schultz
Senator Stephen Wise

Representative Randolph, Senators Bullard and Ring were excused.

Agenda Item 1 **Reappointment of Gary R. VanLandingham, Ph.D., Director, Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) pursuant to Joint Rule 4.1(7)**

Dr. VanLandingham briefly spoke to the Committee.

Rep. Coley moved that Gary VanLandingham be reappointed as the Director of OPPAGA.

The motion passed 7 - 0 with a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 2 **Continuation of discussion concerning local governmental entities that have not filed their annual financial reports as required by Section 218.32, F.S., and audit reports as required by Section 218.39, F.S.**

Debbie White, CPA, gave an update regarding the local governmental entities that have now complied and those entities that remain in noncompliance.

Rep. McBurney moved that the Committee staff be directed to contact the Department of Revenue and the Department of Financial Services by March 16, 2009, and direct them to begin the process of withholding any funds not pledged for bond debt service satisfaction in accordance with the provisions of Section 11.40(5)(a), F.S., for the municipalities of Caryville, Islandia, Weeki Wachee and Westville.

The motion passed without objection.

Rep. McBurney moved that the Committee staff be directed to contact the Department of Community Affairs by March 16, 2009, and direct them, in accordance with Section 11.40(5)(b), F.S., to proceed pursuant to the provisions specified in Section 189.421, F.S., for the following independent special districts: Baker Fire District, Belmont Lakes Community Development District and Pasco Heights Road and Bridge District.

The motion passed without objection.

Rep. Schultz moved that the Committee staff be directed to send a letter to each local governmental entity (municipality and independent special district) that has failed to file an annual financial report and/or required audit for the FY 2006-07, unless the entity has already been contacted. The letter should state that the committee may take action if the required reports are not filed within 60 days.

The motion passed without objection.

Agenda Item 3 Request by Senator Charles S. Dean for an Auditor General audit concerning the Citrus Memorial Hospital Board created by Special Act of the Legislature

Senator Dean spoke to the Committee concerning his request for an Auditor General audit related to the hospital tax funds levied by the Citrus Memorial Hospital Board, as well as its relationship with the Citrus Memorial Health Foundation.

Rep. Abruzzo moved that the Auditor General be directed to conduct an operational audit or other appropriate engagement as recommended by Committee staff.

The motion passed without objection.

Agenda Item 4 Presentation and discussion of Auditor General Report 2009-102, Citizens Property Insurance Corporation - Operational Audit

Kathryn Walker of the Auditor General's Office gave a presentation regarding Auditor General Report 2009-102 of Citizens Property Insurance Corporation.

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Senator Gardiner asked Ms. Walker to compare the findings of this audit to the audit conducted three years ago. Ms. Walker replied that some of the same findings were still issues, but for the most part, Citizens showed marked improvement.

Senator Gardiner also asked if the Auditor General's office looked into whether or not Citizens had paid out more than the actual value of damaged property and if Citizens could actually sustain the loss of a catastrophic hurricane. Ms. Walker answered that they had looked into this and Citizens is trying to deal with maintaining a surplus.

Senator Gardiner stated that he thought Citizens should be brought before the Committee for questions and discussion.

The Chair said that the Committee would definitely bring Citizens and Ms. Walker back before the Committee for discussion of these issues.

Other Committee business:

Rep. Coley moved to rise.