



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JOINT LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Minutes

Ethan Allen Room, State House

Members present: Representatives Ancel, Johnson, Kimbell (by phone), and LaClair and Senators, Ashe, Benning, and Kitchel.

The Chair convened the meeting at 12:10 p.m. and Senator Ashe moved to approve the minutes of November 14, 2019. The Committee approved the motion and adopted the minutes.

The Committee reviewed the latest organizational chart for legislative staff offices and discussed the structure of the current operations office within the Office of Legislative Council. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Legislature to sunset the Legislative Information Technology Oversight Committee (LITOC) and utilize the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee (JITOC) as the policy advisor for the Legislature's new Office of Information Technology (IT). The IT Director would report to the Joint Legislative Management Committee (JLMC) for final decisions relating to budgets or strategic plans. The Committee asked Legislative Counsel to draft revised statutory language regarding the JITOC's continued broad overview of public investments in Vermont's information technology with the added role of policy advisor to the Legislature's IT office.

The Committee discussed what services within the Legislative Branch should be shared throughout the various offices; where those services should be housed; and how human resources, operations, committee services, and finance and accounting should be structured.

The Committee agreed to have an executive session at the next meeting to discuss existing resources for staffing the human resource director position. There was general agreement that a future human resources office should include a formal place for reviewing and handling internships, and intern talent should be shared with other offices if feasible.

The authority to appoint the House Clerk and Senate Secretary Offices was in the Vermont Constitution, so those positions would not be overseen by the JLMC. Representative Kimbell was not able to rejoin the Committee by telephone, upon reconvening from a break.

The Committee agreed to continue the current policy of the Joint Fiscal Committee to hire and manage the Chief Fiscal Officer position. In reviewing the draft legislation provided by Jennifer Carbee, Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of the Legislative Council, regarding a special

committee appointed by JLMC to hire the Director and Chief Counsel of the Office of Legislative Council, the Committee decided to pursue language providing some detail on the special committee's composition. The Committee then unanimously voted to rename the Office of Legislative Council as the "Office of Legislative Counsel."

The Chair proposed sending a revised version of the organizational chart and a description of the Committee's proposals to staff and standing committee chairs for comments. A memo from Matthew Romei, Chief of Capitol Police, Sargent of Arms Office, was entered into the record. The Committee agreed that the JLMC should meet on a regular basis, once the legislative organizational structure was determined.

The next meeting for the Committee was scheduled for December 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Ethan Allen Room. The Committee asked Legislative Counsel to submit a drafting request for the 2020 legislative session to incorporate its recommendations into legislation.

The Committee adjourned at 3:50 p.m. on a motion by Senator Kitchel.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Utton-Jerman, Committee Staff