

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT PLANNING CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
July 25, 2017
2:00 p.m., House Hearing Room 3

Members Present:

Senator Nancy Barto, Vice Chair
Senator Steve Smith

Representative Kelly Townsend, Chair
Representative Anthony T. Kern
Representative Bob Thorpe

Members Excused:

Senator Steve Montenegro

Staff:

Brittany Green, House Research Staff
Zachary Dean, Senate Research Staff

Chairman Townsend called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m. and attendance was noted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Hotel - Hyatt Regency, Phoenix

Representative Townsend spoke regarding the Hyatt Regency offering the best rate package out of the Hotels that were approached by members of the Committee. Additionally, she explained that the State of Arizona will not be financially responsible for these accommodations. Representative Townsend stated that each delegate will be responsible for their own accommodations and transportation.

Securing commitments from other states - Outreach, Promotional Materials, Website

Representative Townsend spoke on the importance of states attending and understanding the process that needs to be followed.

Senator Barto explained that many members were able to connect and share information with potential delegates during a recent legislative convention. Senator Barto talked about the website that has been set up for the Balanced Budget Amendment Planning Convention. Senator Barto explained information received from the Department of Tourism regarding materials promoting Arizona that will be shared with possible delegates prior to the convention.

Representative Townsend explained how to find the Balanced Budget Amendment Planning Convention website, by going to the Arizona Legislative website at www.azleg.gov, scroll down and the link is on the left hand side.

Representative Kern recommended contacting state leadership concerning volunteers to help with the Convention.

Representative Townsend requested that Committee members volunteer to assist in following up with states' leadership to obtain attendance responses.

In response to Senator Smith, Representative Townsend explained that individuals and leadership from other states need to be contacted. Representative Townsend explained that everyone is invited to attend but delegates need to be selected by their leadership in order to be voting members. Delegates need to be chosen by both Chambers of their respective legislatures in order to be able to speak for the state they represent.

Senator Barto clarified that states do not need to have passed the Balanced Budget Amendment in their state to be able to send delegates to the convention.

Representative Thorpe explained the comparison between the Convention that was called in 1861 and what is being attempted now.

Senator Barto clarified that the public is invited to attend the Convention without being credentialed.

Delegate Credentialing - Majority Leadership

Representative Townsend explained that this Committee will be making recommendations to the Convention and that the recommendations should be distributed to the delegates prior to the Convention to enable contemplation and understanding. Representative Townsend stated that part of the rules to be put forward would be who the credentialing committee would be, recommending that the Balanced Budget Amendment Planning Convention Committee be the credentialing committee.

In response to Senator Smith's questions regarding number of delegates and how many states have passed legislation to send delegates, Representative Townsend stated that no restrictions have been discussed. Representative Townsend also stated that legislation does not have to be passed, leadership from each state can choose who would represent their state.

In response to Representative Kern's question, Representative Townsend stated that approximately 50 delegates are in the process of being appointed with many more discussions being held.

Non – Delegates

Representative Townsend recommended the following attendees be included in the rules

recommended by this Committee changing Advisory Council to possibly Auxiliary Support Group:

- ~~i. Advisory Council~~ Auxiliary Support Group
- ii. Volunteers
- iii. Press
- iv. Filmmakers
- v. Badged vs. Credentialed

Representative Townsend explained that these groups would not be credentialed voting members. She requested the Committee agree to put this forward in the rules recommendation.

In response to Senator Smith's question, Representative Townsend explained that the purpose of the Convention is a Balanced Budget Convention (BBC) Planning Convention in case an actual Article V approved Convention of States to discuss a Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA). Representative Townsend stated that mainly the rules that will be submitted by the BBC will be a recommendation of rules for the Article V Convention. Representative Townsend stated that each state would have one vote not one per delegate.

Representative Thorpe explained how each convention would work and the difference between the Balanced Budget Amendment Planning Convention which the Committee is working on and an Article V Convention.

Representative Townsend made comments regarding work done at a Convention of States and progressing from there. Representative Townsend mentioned some of the things that will be included in the rules that need to be recommended.

Non Convention Events

Representative Townsend mentioned auxiliary events that have been suggested and would be welcomed with the stipulation that the State of Arizona nor this Committee would be financially responsible for any of these events. Possible events that have been mentioned are:

- i. Prayer Breakfast
- ii. Dinners
- iii. Saturday Excursions

Preliminary Budget

Representative Townsend spoke regarding what will and will not be paid for by the State of Arizona. She mentioned that by deciding to have the Convention at the capitol is very prudent.

Amilyn Pierce, Deputy Chief of Staff, House of Representatives, updated the Committee on the contact that has been made with other states.

Representative Townsend talked about items that will need to be provided to the delegates and that so far the expenses have been kept to a minimum and her intention is to keep it that way. Representative Townsend mentioned possibly obtaining outside group donations.

Senator Barto spoke about needing to know the number of attendees to help budget more responsibly.

Vendor Area - Food Trucks/Tent

Representative Townsend questioned support of closing 17th Avenue for food trucks so people have access to refreshments at their own expense.

Committee members questioned the need to close 17th Avenue and recommended using the parking lot of the House of Representatives.

Senator Barto suggested having a person that is authorized to make decisions for expenses that arise between scheduled meetings.

Senator Barto moved that expenditures for the Balanced Budget Amendment Planning Convention go through the Chair or Vice Chair of this Planning Convention Committee and be approved by the Senate President or the Speaker's Office as appropriate. The motion CARRIED by voice vote.

Senator Barto recommended a motion be made to clarify who can make non-monetary decisions with time constraints.

Senator Barto moved that the Committee grant authority to allow for the Chair to make non-monetary decisions in the event there is a time constraint with the approval of the Speaker.

Representative Townsend gave an example of a group wanting to do a documentary on the process. She stated that they are requesting meeting rooms to do interviews in order to commit to doing the documentary and with this vote a meeting wouldn't need to be called for each decision.

The motion CARRIED with a voice vote.

Next Steps

Representative Townsend explained that the Convention in September would have to adopt a set of rules. She stated that with the assistance of Representative Thorpe, she would like to put together a rough draft of rules which would be sent out to the members of this Committee for review and placed on the website. Representative Townsend stated that would enable delegates to review the rules before they arrive, so they may be adopted or revised then adopted.

Representative Townsend stated that within the rules, recommendations could be made for committees and where the committees can meet. The Senate has volunteered to host committee meetings. Representative Townsend stated that a timeline should be agreed on.

Representative Kern talked about some possible extra-curricular activities the delegates and non-delegates might be interested in. He stated that these activities would be not be paid by the State, but individuals would be responsible for costs.

Representative Townsend clarified that the extra-curricular activities would be optional and not funded by the Committee or State, but individually paid. She stated that these are opportunities for the delegates to enjoy their trip and showcase Arizona.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Ponce
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)