

State Tax Panel Meeting
9/16/15
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by Co-Chairman Bill Dyson. The following members were present: Melinda Agsten, Ben Barnes, Rep. Jeff Berger, Al Casella, Alan Clavette, Bill Dyson, John Elsesser, Sen. Scott Frantz, Marian Galbraith, Tiana Gianopulos, Howard K. Hill, Don Marchand, David Nee, Bill Nickerson, Lou Schatz, Kevin Sullivan, and Robert Testo. Absent were. Bill Breetz(out of the country), Rep. Chris Davis(work conflict), Sen. John Fonfara, Anika Singh Lemar(work conflict), Sen. Martin Looney, and Rep. Brendan Sharkey

At the request of Co-Chair Bill Nickerson the panel held a moment of silence in honor of former State Senator and Finance Chair Eileen Daily. He mentioned that Eileen Daily had sponsored the first meeting of the panel and was a strong advocate for its work.

Co-chair Nickerson also told the panel that this meeting is the beginning of a very intense period for the panel. The mood and pace will intensify as we head toward our statutory deadline of 12/31/15. Meetings will be more frequent and cover a wide range of topics. The co-chairs also welcomed the expertise and participation of Pat Widlitz, former House chair of the Finance Committee as she continues to offer advice and counsel to the panel. They also noted that all materials are posted to the panel's website at www.cga.ct.gov , then click on committees, click on Finance, scroll to left bottom corner for the website and all relevant papers and testimony are posted there.

The panel adopted the revised calendar that changed the reporting date to December 31st instead of February 29th.

Robert Ebel then thanked the panel members for participating in the conference calls and adding to the high level discussions. He also reminded the panel that our work and recommendations needs to keep in mind the charge of revenue neutrality. Future meetings will cover a wide range of topics.

Manisha Srivastava, Budget Analyst, Office of Policy and Management presented a power point on the Connecticut Economy.(power point is posted on the website). Commissioner Sullivan asked if there was any attempt to look at employment on a regional basis for the Northeast. Lou Schatz asked for clarification on the definition of Management of Companies. Patrick Flaherty, Assistant Director of Research and Information, Department of Labor, said that establishments are classified in certain ways based on the primary function of the geographic location. Kevin Sullivan asked

about the placement of teachers in the bubble graphs as to whether they are included in Educational Services or Government. Public sector teachers are classified under government employment. Commissioner Sullivan also questioned whether recovery is a cycle or a spiral. Rates are all lower in this recovery.

Matthew Pellowski, Budget Analyst, Office of Policy and Management presented a power point on Revenue Overview.(power point is on line at the website) Ben Barnes said that revenue estimation by OPM is generally very good and this time was less than ten percent of the General fund. Lou Schatz questioned the revenue associated with the unitary tax.

Bo Zhao, Senior Economist, New England Public Policy Center (NEPPC) at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston presented a power point on Measuring Connecticut Local Fiscal Disparities. (power point on line at website)

The next meeting is Wednesday, September 30, 2015 at 10:00 am in Room 2B of the Legislative Office Building. The topics under discussion are Fiscal Comparisons (how does CT compare) and competitiveness.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Finnegan
Administrator, State Tax Panel