

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE

Budget Review Subcommittee on General Government, Finance, Personnel, and Public Retirement

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2020 Interim

August 19, 2020

Call to Order and Roll Call

The second meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on General Government, Finance, Personnel, and Public Retirement of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Wednesday, August 19, 2020, at 8:30 AM, in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Robby Mills, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Robby Mills, Co-Chair; Senators Julie Raque Adams, Dennis Parrett, Reginald Thomas, and Phillip Wheeler; Representatives Kevin D. Bratcher, Jim Gooch Jr., Joe Graviss, Mark Hart, Adam Koenig, Michael Meredith, Suzanne Miles, Jerry T. Miller, Phillip Pratt, and Nancy Tate.

Guests: Robin Morley, Executive Director, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Finance and Administration Cabinet (FAC); Ruth Day, Commissioner, Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT), FAC; Gerina Whethers, Secretary, Personnel Cabinet; and Mary Elizabeth Bailey, Commissioner, Department of Human Resources Administration, Personnel Cabinet.

LRC Staff: Liz Columbia, Emma Mills, and Spring Emerson.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Representative Koenig to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Representative Hart, and the minutes were approved without objection.

Presentations

Presentations were provided by Robin Morley, Executive Director, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, FAC; Ruth Day, Commissioner, COT, FAC; and Gerina Whethers, Secretary, Personnel Cabinet.

Questions

In response to a question from Representative Koenig regarding the functionality of Workers' Compensation claims relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, Secretary Whethers said claims can be processed from home or office, and the same investigative policies are in place. She will provide more detail at a later date.

In response to a question from Representative Miles regarding CARES Act funding, Ms. Morley said the FAC is seeking reimbursement for Virtual Personal Network (VPN) software licenses and is waiting for approval. Ms. Day agreed that is what the Personnel Cabinet is seeking as well.

In response to a question from Representative Miles regarding the role of Unemployment Insurance (UI), Ms. Day said the COT provides support for both hardware and software, but they do not oversee other applications and their operations. Representative Miles asked about a Request for Proposal (RFP) bid package in November or December 2019 for UI software, and Ms. Day said that was not within the purview of the COT, and the RFP had instead been issued by the UI office.

In response to a question from Representative Hart regarding the possibility of the workforce becoming 100 percent remote and the projected cost savings involved, Ms. Morley said the FAC does not have a plan in place for a permanent teleworking model. There remains much work that cannot be performed remotely. Ms. Bailey agreed that some positions could never be performed remotely.

In response to a question from Representative Miller regarding changes in the need for office space, Ms. Morley said input from across the Executive Branch relating to agencies' needs for office space will be provided at a later date.

Representative Graviss expressed his appreciation for the work the FAC, COT and Personnel Cabinet perform, and Senator Wheeler agreed with his sentiments.

In response to a question from Chair Mills regarding the RFP for Unemployment Insurance, Ms. Morley said responses are due from vendors by late September or early October, and she will follow up with a formal response at that time.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 AM.