Office of the State Treasurer
109 State Street, 4th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05602
802-828-1451

DRAFT—Minutes

Public Retirement Study Committee— September 3, 2015
4th Floor Executive Conference, 109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Attendees:
Beth Pearce, Chair, Vermont State Treasurer
Monica Hutt, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living
Annie Noonan, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Labor
Robert Hooper, Appointed by the legislative Committee on Committees
Rebecca Towne, Appointed by the legislative Committee on Committees
Dan Boardman, Appointed by the Speaker

Also Attending:
Chris D'Elia, Vermont Bankers Association
John Cronin, LPL Financial (On the Phone)
Tim Lueders-Dumont, Office of the State Treasurer
Michelle Carol, Financial Services Institute, Inc. (On the Phone)
Anthony Pollina, Senator, Washington County
Angela M. Antonelli, Center for Retirement Initiatives at Georgetown University
Chris Rice, MMR Legal Services, LLC.
Lawrence Barber, Merrill Lynch Global Private Client Group
Philene Taormina, AARP
Steve Hill, Service Employees International Union
Steve Zind, VPR
Charles Storrow, KSE Partners
Ben Palkowski, VSEA

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Pearce called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Ms. Noonan was not present at 11:30 a.m. A quorum was reached. Ms. Noonan joined the meeting at 11:40 a.m. in person.

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ITEM 1: Opening Remarks and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Pearce moved to approve the minutes from 12.19.2014. The motion was moved by Mr. Boardman and seconded by Ms. Towne.

Ms. Pearce gave an overview of the charge and deliverables of the Public Retirement Study Committee (the Committee) by reviewing the report submitted by the Committee last year. The group discussed the purpose of the Committee. The group discussed the population of Vermonters who do not have access to a retirement plan through their employment. The group discussed an AARP handout of information regarding Vermont-specific information on this topic.

ITEM 2: Overview of National Issues & Examples from Other States

Ms. Pearce introduced Ms. Antonelli from the Center for Retirement Initiatives at Georgetown University and Mr. Hill from Service Employees International Union. Mr. Hill and Ms. Antonelli gave an overview of national issues surrounding retirement security as well as an overview on what other states have done.

Ms. Pearce noted the guiding principles that the Committee agreed upon the following list of guiding principles as noted in the report submitted by the Committee in January 2015:

a. Simplicity—a plan should be easy for participants to understand
b. Affordable—a plan should be administered to maximize cost-effectiveness and efficiency
c. Ease of Access—the plan should be easy to join
d. Trustworthy Oversight—the plan should be administered by an organization with unimpeachable credentials
e. Protection from Exploitation—the plan should protect its participants, particularly the elderly, from unscrupulous business practices or individuals
f. Portability—the plan should not depend upon employment with a specific firm or organization
g. Choice—the plan should provide sufficient investment alternatives to be suitable for individuals with distinct goals, but not to many options to induce "analysis paralysis"
h. Voluntary—the plan should not be mandatory; however, auto-enrollment may increase participation
i. Financial Education and Financial Literacy—the plan should assist the individual in understanding their financial situation
j. Sufficiency Savings—encourage adequate savings in retirement combined with existing pension savings and social security
k. Additive not Duplicative—the plan should not compete with existing private sector solutions
l. Able to use pre-tax dollars

The Committee discussed integrating the guiding principles (listed above) with the next steps detailed in Ms. Antonelli's presentation.

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ITEM 3: Public Comment and Next Steps

The group discussed that it would be important to hear from Vermont businesses on this topic. The group noted that the Committee should hear from Vermont businesses at the October meeting. The Committee discussed that outlining a work plan, next steps, any barriers for businesses, and any further examples from other states, IRS Rules, pertinent ERISA regulations, would be useful for the Committee to understand in moving forward.

Ms. Pearce noted that the next meeting will be on October 1, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.

ITEM 4: Adjournment

On a motion from Ms. Pearce to adjourn the meeting, moved by Ms. Towne and seconded by Mr. Boardman, the Public Retirement Study Committee meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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