

Legislative and Research Committee Minutes

March 10, 2009 – 4:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Rowland; Supervisors Daly, Southworth, and Veitch; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Ed Tremblay, Emergency Services; Press.

Chairman Rowland called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Veitch the minutes of the February 3, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Veitch said since the VLT Revenues have been included on the agenda for the 2009 Legislative Program, he is requesting that the Racing Committee and the Legislative and Research Committee co-sponsor a letter to be sent to State legislators in support of retaining VLT Revenues at the 2008 levels.

A motion was made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Ms. Daly in support of forwarding a letter to State Legislators with regard to VLT Revenues and including it in the 2009 Legislative Program. Unanimous.

Ms. Daly suggested removing item #11 (Hoyt Bill) from the legislative program.

A motion was made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Veitch to move forward with the legislative program as outlined minus item #11(Hoyt Bill). Unanimous.

Mr. Tremblay said prior to 2005, in order to operate a piece of fire apparatus, firefighters were exempt from having to hold a CDL license. In 2005 the law was changed by the State because they were fearful that they would lose highway funding. When it was determined that highway funding would not be lost, they failed to change the law. Currently, any firefighter that is qualified by their department to drive a piece of fire apparatus is okay to drive that piece of fire apparatus to an emergency scene without a CDL license, however, when the emergency is over they are not allowed to drive it back to the station. The law also includes the driving to any non-emergency operation including driver training, parades and any other non-emergency event. There is currently legislation in the Assembly (bill-A05952) and Senate (bill-624A) to change the law back.

The committee requested that Mr. Tremblay gather more information and report back at the next committee meeting.

Ms. Daly said she would like to know what other counties are doing.

Mrs. Southworth said there is a concern about the high volume of general discharges now being given from the military. The military has now added a new category entitled, "General Discharge". This would include people that perhaps would fall into another

category, but because of the high volume of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder it was a way to not have so many disability discharges. She said Veterans are looking for support of legislation that would allow a General Discharge to become an Honorable Discharge if issues for the General Discharge were resolved. This is a problem because the individual is not able to put Honorable Discharge on a job application, and because people don't understand what a General Discharge is, it hampers the ability to obtain employment.

Mrs. Southworth said she would gather more information and report back to the committee.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Veitch the meeting was adjourned.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom