



State of North Carolina
Department of the Secretary of State

ELAINE F. MARSHALL
SECRETARY OF STATE

July 20, 2018

Josh Stein, Attorney General
NC Department of Justice
114 West Edenton St
Raleigh, NC 27602
By E-mail & Hand Delivery

Paul Coble, Legislative Services Officer
Legislative Building, Room 2129
16 West Jones St
Raleigh, NC 27601
By E-mail & Hand Delivery

Dear Attorney General Stein and Legislative Services Officer Coble:

Since the meeting of the Constitutional Amendments Publication Commission (CAPC) occurs infrequently, I had to review past files and thought it might be instructional to provide you with some information regarding past Commission practices.

In the past, the Commission has considered proposed summaries of amendments submitted by members of the public. As noted in a previous email, we are again offering citizens the opportunity to submit proposed language for consideration by the Commission. We will provide you with all proposed language we receive. Even though the Commission is not required to use language from any of the proposals, I have always found these to be helpful.

Unless you desire something different, our current plan is to email you each work day by 9:30 a.m. with the emails received since the prior email. We have set up individual email addresses for each of the six amendments, and the emails forwarded to you will come from those addresses:

HouseBill551@sosnc.gov
HouseBill913@sosnc.gov
HouseBill1092@sosnc.gov
SenateBill75@sosnc.gov
SenateBill677@sosnc.gov
SenateBill814@sosnc.gov

If you would like the forwarded emails sent to a different email address instead of or in addition to your own (jstein@ncdoj.gov and paul.coble@ncleg.net), please let me know as soon as possible. Also, you may need to adjust your security settings to allow emails from the above addresses.

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Determining whether particular wording under consideration by the Commission is in "in simple and commonly used language", is not always easy. Therefore, in the past, we have used the Readability Statistics scoring available in the MSWORD™ program as a tool to help us make that assessment. I have attached an article about the readability statistics for your information.

Procedurally, in the past, we have loaded the few suggested drafts received on a computer. Then as we discussed a particular draft, we made it visible on screen to Commission members. If changes are discussed, a member of my staff has edited the draft language as Commission members suggested changes. Given the potential volume of suggestions, it would be helpful if you could identify the draft you are most interested in (for each amendment) or share your own draft.

Commission meetings are not public hearings. There will be no opportunity for the public to speak at the Commission meetings, to comment or advocate regarding the amendments or proposed summary language, or to ask Commission members questions.

You can view materials from recent Commission meetings by going to the Commission website at https://www.sosnc.gov/divisions/nc_constitutional_documents and clicking on Constitutional Amendments. I have also included copies of the amendment summaries developed by the Commission in 2010, 2012 and 2014 for your information.

My staff is preparing binders for each of you with the necessary materials for the Commission meeting. Please advise if you would like binders for staff accompanying you to the meeting. We would also like to know the number of "required staff" accompanying you to justify funds for break beverages during the meeting.

Regards,


Elaine F. Marshall

Attachments