

**Joint Interim Legislative Committee on the  
Recompilation of the Constitution**

**Minutes  
August 24, 2021**

A meeting of the Joint Interim Legislative Committee on the Recompilation of the Constitution was held in Room 200 of the Alabama State House on August 24, 2021.

The meeting was convened by Representative Merika Coleman, Chair, at 10:03 a.m.

After opening remarks, Mr. Othni Lathram, Director, Legislative Services Agency, took the attendance roll call. Committee members present for the meeting were Representative Merika Coleman, Senator Arthur Orr, Vice Chair, Representative Danny Garrett, Senator Sam Givhan, Representative Ben Robbins, Ms. Anita Archie, Mr. Greg Butrus, Mr. Stan Gregory, and Mr. Al Vance. Senator Rodger Smitherman was absent.

After Mr. Lathram discussed administrative matters regarding supporting material provided to committee members, Ms. Karen Smith, Senior Attorney, Legislative Services Agency gave a presentation on options for the organization of local (county and municipal) constitutional amendments. A discussion followed. Comments focused on how to organize amendments for municipalities located in more than one county, how to sequence amendments, and how to cross reference amendments. There was a general consensus that local county amendments should be organized by common topic. Mr. Lathram suggested that LSA would begin working on a general outline for organizing local amendments.

Next, a public hearing was held. Speakers were as follows: Ms. Jackie Antalan of Mobile spoke about the need for broader dissemination of information and the need for inviting the public to be more involved in the process; and Ms. Nancy Ekberg, representing Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform, thanked the committee for their work.

Mr. Lathram announced that the next meeting will entail a discussion of three sections of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, that contain controversial language – Section 32, prohibiting slavery or involuntary servitude, other than for punishment for a crime; Section 259, requiring the proceeds of poll taxes to be used for education; and Section 256, providing for K-12 education policy. In addition, the committee will discuss the outline for organizing local constitutional amendments, prepared by LSA.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 200 of the Alabama State House.

After Senator Orr made closing remarks, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.