

STATE REGULATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
REVIEW COMMITTEE

January 15, 2013
209 Gressette Building, 10:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: Senator Thomas C. Alexander, Chair; Rep William E. Sandifer, Vice-Chair; Senator Brad Hutto; Rep. Harry L. Ott; Rep. Mike Forrester; and public members John Simmons, Esquire and Helen Zeigler, Esquire.

Staff Present: Heather Anderson and Andy Fiffick

Chairman Alexander called the meeting to order at approximately 10:30 a.m. Vice-chairman Sandifer began with discussion of questions raised as to the Public Utility Review Committee's ("PURC") 2006 advisory opinion concerning Public Service Commission ("PSC") candidate attendance at legislative functions. PURC members discussed the need for a "bright-line test" as to PURC's policy on candidate attendance at legislative caucus meetings and legislative receptions/functions not addressed by the 2006 opinion. The PURC members discussed their desire to ensure that all candidates, both incumbent and non-incumbent, received fair and equal treatment during the screening process. The members further expressed their desire to issue clear guidance as to PSC candidate attendance at legislative receptions and caucus meetings during the PSC screening process.

Vice-chairman Sandifer offered a motion that PURC issue an advisory opinion to establish that PSC candidates, both incumbents and non-incumbents, should not attend a legislative reception that (1) is extended to the House or Senate Invitations Committee; or (2) notice of which is published in the House or Senate calendar; or (3) notice of which is posted on the House or Senate website. The motion further offered that failure to follow these guidelines after the meeting may be considered by the Review Committee in its screening process. The motion was seconded, with all in attendance voting in favor. Chairman Alexander had Senator Rankin's proxy and voted in favor of the motion.

Vice-chairman Sandifer then offered a second motion that PURC issue an advisory opinion to establish that that PSC candidates, both incumbents and non-incumbents, should not attend legislative caucus meetings, and clarified that such a prohibition would not apply to candidate attendance at meetings of geographically based groups such as legislative delegations organized by congressional district or county. The motion also offered that failure to follow these guidelines after the meeting may be considered by the Review Committee in its screening process. The motion was seconded, with all in attendance voting in favor. Chairman Alexander had Senator Rankin's proxy and voted in favor of the motion.

There being no further business, the Committee stood adjourned at approximately 11:00.