MEETING SUMMARY
Commission on Local Government
FIS Task Force
June 24, 2013 at 10:00 AM
The Virginia Housing Center
Henrico Room 2
4224 Cox Road
Glen Allen, Virginia

Present

Alan Albert
David Blount
Thomas Foley
James McReynolds
Ross Mugler

Present Via Teleconference

Kathleen Guzi
Penny Hodge
Chris Morrill

Not Present

Vivian Calkins-McGettigan
Beverly Cameron

Others

Kimberly Via, Auditor of Public Accounts
Lori Hicks, Auditor of Public Accounts
Jeff Sharp, Division of Legislative Services
John Ringer, Department of Planning & Budget
Mark Haskins, Department of Taxation
Charles Crowson, Virginia Association of Assessing Officials
Dean Lynch, Virginia Association of Counties
Neal Menkes, Virginia Municipal League
Jim Regimbal, Fiscal Analytics, Ltd.

Auditor of Public Accounts

- Local tax/revenue data from the previous fiscal year should be available for the FIS review process in time for the beginning of General Assembly.
- The APA can make the Uniform Financial Reporting Manual available to the task force.

Division of Legislative Services

- Current DLS practice has made the first day introduction requirement mostly obsolete.
- 50% of bills flagged by DLS as having a local fiscal impact are never introduced.
- All introduced bills that are flagged as having a local fiscal impact are forwarded to the CLG for fiscal review.
- If a bill is not flagged by DLS as having a local fiscal impact, it will not be forwarded to CLG and therefore not go through the FIS process.
- Does the task force need to redefine the definitions in § 30-19.03?
- While some agencies are tasked with reviewing enrolled bills after session as they pertain to state interests, there isn't a similar responsibility for local governments.
- General Assembly session coincides with budget season for local governments.
- Bills might not get flagged by DLS because the language uses the word "may" instead of "shall."

Department of Planning & Budget/Department of Taxation

- DPB and TAX may need to be included in future meetings.
- DPB downloads all bill data from DLAS into their internal process.
- CLG could benefit from TAX and DPB resources (ex. DPB's eFIS system).
- Does the process need to be changed to allow DPB and TAX to refer bills to CLG for local fiscal impact review?

Budget Items

- Three budget phases:
    - Governor's introduced budget
    - Crossover
    - Final conference version of the budget
- VML and VACo use contacts with members to get budget information.
- Is it too much to ask of CLG to be charged with generating fiscal impacts of budget items?
- TJPDC included budget items within the scope of the task force because of last-minute changes to the budget in the conference committees that added costs to local governments.
- Need to invite Robert Vaughn (House Appropriations) and Becky Covey (Senate Finance) to the next meeting.

Resources

- CLG should solicit subject matter experts for fiscal input rather than a collection of volunteers.
- Need to minimize the chances that a subject matter expert is politically motivated.

Next Meeting Topics

- Q&A with Senate Finance and House Appropriations
- More discussion of budget items
- Subject-matter experts
- Resources and outside consultants