

Hope Scholarship Subcommittee on Legislative Rules

Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2022 10:00 am via Microsoft Teams

The meeting of the Hope Scholarship Subcommittee on Legislative Rules was called to order by Jonathan "Zak" Ritchie, Chair, on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 10:01 am after determination that a quorum of the members was present. Subcommittee members attending the meeting were: Jonathan "Zak" Ritchie and Charles Russell.

The following West Virginia State Treasurer's Office (WVSTO) staff members attending the virtual meeting: Sarah Canterbury, James Fuerhoff, Lindsay Marchio, and Amy Willard. Approximately 15 members of the public attended the virtual meeting.

The agenda for the meeting consisted of the following:

- I. Welcome – Introductions/Roll Call – Call to Order
- II. Removal of Committee Member
- III. Legislative Rules
- IV. Adjournment

I – Welcome – Introductions/Roll Call – Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order after determination that a quorum of members was present. He announced introduced both himself and Charles Russell as the members present.

II. Removal of Subcommittee Member

The Chair indicated the next order of business was to announce that Attorney General Patrick Morrisey was removed from the Subcommittee on Legislative Rules and that he was appointed as the new Subcommittee Chair, by memorandum of the Hope Scholarship Board Chairman.

III – Legislative Rules

The next order of business was a discussion on the Legislative Rules for the Hope Scholarship Program. The Chair indicated that staff of the WVSTO prepared a recommended draft of the legislative rules for the program for consideration by the Subcommittee. The Chair recognized Sarah Canterbury to give a brief presentation on the draft rules being considered.

Sarah provided a description of the various sections of the draft rules. She indicated that section 1 of the rules provided the statutory authority for the rules and provides that the rules will sunset. Section 2 defines the terms used in the rules. Section 3 provides student eligibility requirements for

the statute, based on the authorizing statute. Section 4 addresses the Hope Scholarship application requirements, including the application window for both initial and renewal applications. Section 5 sets forth the requirements for Hope Scholarship account holders while section 6 reiterates the statutory requirement that an account holder sign a contract with the board containing specific provisions. Section 7 addresses the allocation and distribution of Hope Scholarship funds into student accounts, including use of an online portal. Section 8 addresses the use of Hope Scholarship funds for purchases, including the rule that Hope Scholarship students residing in a household must have separate and distinct accounts. Section 9 addresses qualifying expenses under the program. Section 10 addresses Hope Scholarship account termination upon a student's withdrawal from the program, failure to renew an account, or ineligibility to participate in the program. Section 11 contains requirements for educational service providers who will be authorized to accept Hope Scholarship funds in exchange for providing education services to Hope Scholarship students.

Upon completion of Sarah's presentation, the Chair asked Mr. Russell if he had any questions for WVSTO staff regarding the proposed rules. Mr. Russell indicated he had no questions and the Chair said he had none, either. The Chair then asked Mr. Russell if he had any amendments to the rules prepared by the WVSTO team. Mr. Russell said he had none. The Chair indicated he had none either. James Fuerhoff from the WVSTO indicated that an amendment was needed to the sunset provision in the initial draft. The date needed changed from August 1, 2027 to August 1, 2028 based on the timing of when the rules will be filed. The Chair asked for the specific section number in the policy and was referred to section 1.5. Both the Chair and Mr. Russell indicated agreement with the change to the sunset provision date.

The Chair made a motion that the Hope Scholarship Program legislative rules as discussed and amended today be recommended by the Subcommittee on Legislative rules for approval to the full Hope Scholarship Board. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. The Chair asked for discussion. He thanked the WVSTO team for their work on the legislative rules and indicated that the rules were well-done. The Chair polled the members on the motion and the motion was adopted.

VIII - Adjournment

The Chair asked if there was any other business to come before the Board and none was heard. Upon hearing none, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:10 am.

Minutes prepared by Amy Willard

Minutes approved by the Subcommittee on April 8, 2022



Jonathan "Zak" Ritchie, Chair