



**The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations**



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members
FROM: Cliff Lippard
Cliff
 Executive Director
DATE: 29 September 2020
SUBJECT: Staff and Commission Updates

Commission Update

As a result of the increasing number of Commission studies requested by the Tennessee General Assembly over the last few years, and concern that the volume of those studies might lessen the quality of Commission research, House Speaker Cameron Sexton, in consultation with TACIR Chairman Mike Carter, developed a new study referral process during this past session. Rather than referring studies by public chapter or by individual committee vote, Speaker Sexton directed the House committees to refer all proposed TACIR studies to the House Calendar and Rules Committee, which will establish a special calendar to hear and decide on each of the proposals.

Of course, because of the COVID-19 pandemic's disruption of the session, the new referral process was not used this session. We anticipate it will go into effect next session. As of the end of the session, the Senate had not established a comparable process to date, but Lieutenant Governor McNally's office said they will work with the House on referrals.

Next, staff has developed a proposed addition to the commission's bylaws to recognize the existence of the new legislative process and to formalize the process for approving requests by Commission members. Staff suggests voting on the proposed new article, which requires approval by the Commission members, at our next meeting. The proposed article follows.

Article VIII

Process for Adoption of Studies into the TACIR Work Program

Studies may be requested of the Commission by the legislative referral process developed in consultation with the leadership of the Tennessee General Assembly or at the request of a Commission member. Requests made through the legislative referral process require a majority vote of the Commission members present and voting, provided there is a quorum. Study requests by Commission members require an affirmative vote of seventeen (17) Commission members who are present and voting.

Staff Update

Research Manager Mark McAdoo recently completed a Doctor of Business Administration degree from Colorado Technical University. Mark also holds two Master of Science degrees, one in biology from Tennessee Technological University and the other in management from Austin Peay State University, and two bachelor of science degrees, one in biology from Tennessee Tech, and the other in political science from Austin Peay. Please join me in congratulating Mark on this accomplishment.

Next, since our last meeting, we welcomed a new staff research associate, Kevin Vanzant. Kevin, originally from South Carolina, holds a PhD in American History and a Master of History degree from Vanderbilt University and Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of Virginia. Before joining the TACIR staff, he instructed undergraduate courses at Tennessee State University and Belmont University and in Vanderbilt University's programs for talented youth. Please join me in welcoming Kevin.

Next, Senior Research Associate Tyler Carpenter has recently reached 5 years of service with the State of Tennessee. And Senior Research Associate Dave Keiser recently completed a graduate certificate in Geospatial Applied Information from Tennessee State University. Please join me in commending Tyler and Dave for achieving these milestones.

Finally, we were fortunate to have had Duke Gear, a student in the Master of Public Policy and Administration program at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, serving with us as an intern this summer. Duke also holds a Bachelor degree from UTK, graduating Magna Cum Laude in 2019 with a major in political science and a minor in economics. Previously, Duke served as an intern with the Office of the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives in the Tennessee General Assembly from January to May of 2019.