

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY REVIEW COMMITTEE
Report & Recommendations
9/20/12**

Assembly Chair Steve Gobbo appointed to the Assembly Review Committee in the fall of 2011: Chair, Richard Morley Barron (7), Kimberly Brightmeyer (30), Vice-Chair, Michael Blau (6), John Blakeslee (13), and Carl Chioni (16). This Committee met by phone and twice in Lansing on 4/21/12 & 6/12/12 along with the State Bar Executive Director and State Bar staff. The Assembly Chair requested member input on Assembly changes by e-mail and from the dais. Assembly member comments were received at the 4/21/12 Lansing meeting.

The Assembly Review Committee reviewed and discussed areas of concern in the operation of the Assembly and considered possible changes to improve the functioning of the Assembly. It was determined by the Committee to present the Assembly with general areas of concern and solicit debate in the Assembly on these issues and to then reconvene our Committee to consider the Assembly's input and to then make specific recommendations to the Assembly at its next following meeting.

Our areas of concern follow.

I. What things ought the Assembly be doing?

There have been few substantive issues decided upon at recent Assembly meetings. What can we do to increase the number of substantive questions that we decide?

II. How well do Assemblypersons communicate with their constituents regarding the Representative Assembly and its actions? What methods do assemblypersons currently use to communicate with their constituents (e.g., emails, list serves, blogs, social media, snail mail, phone calls, electronic publications, mailed newsletter articles, etc.)? What, if anything, could assemblypersons do to improve their communication with constituents?

- III. How well do the Sections of the Bar interface with the Representative Assembly? How effective are Assembly Section Liaisons? What should the Assembly do to encourage better communication?**
- IV. How can our Drafting Committee better work with issue proponents to assure a well-drafted, well thought out, proposal that is legally and factually supported and can be voted up or down?**
- V. Should some Assembly business be done on-line? What might be lost or gained by conducting business on-line?**
- VI. How can the Bar at-large be made more aware of the work of the Representative Assembly? How can we encourage more competition for RA elections?**
- VII. Should the Assembly by-laws be amended to allow:**
- a) Larger committees (i.e., more than five members)?**
 - b) Creation of a standing Technology committee to propose ways to use technology to help the Assembly communicate and better perform its functions?**
 - c) Consolidation of the Drafting & Rules and Calendar Committees to expedite and enhance proposals for the Assembly?**

The Assembly Review Committee members look forward to receiving feedback from the Assembly on the above questions, and others.

Respectfully submitted,

**Richard Morley Barron (7)
Chair, Assembly Review Comm.**