

**MINUTES OF THE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**
March 29, 2006 – 2:00 p.m. – W135 House Building

Members Present:

President John L. Valentine, Chair
Speaker Greg J. Curtis, Vice-Chair
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Dan R. Eastman
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Ed Mayne
Rep. Ralph Becker
Rep. Ben C. Ferry
Rep. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Rosalind J. McGee
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart

Members Absent:

Sen. Beverly Ann Evans
Rep. Jeff Alexander

Staff Present:

Mr. Michael E. Christensen, Director
Ms. M. Gay Taylor, General Counsel
Ms. Beverlee LeCheminant, Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Speaker Curtis called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2006 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Eastman and Rep. Urquhart were absent for the vote.

2. Session Statistics

Mr. Christensen presented a statistical summary of the legislative session, including the number of bills introduced and passed in total and by each house.

3. Interim Committee Study Items

Mr. Christensen indicated that Legislative Management Committee (LMC) has the authority to assign study items to interim committees by statute. He told the committee that this year the Master Study Resolution did not pass, but that staff included it in the mailing packet as a reference. Mr. Christensen also mentioned that the Master Study Resolution divides the study items into committee assignments and that the study item assignments can be made from the Master Study Resolution or independent of it.

MOTION: Rep. Ferry moved that the interim committees review the items on the Master Study Resolution that have been assigned to them, along with any others they may wish to consider, and have the committee chairs submit a letter noting the items they would like to study to LMC after the April interim meetings.

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SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Becker moved to add to the original motion that the Legislative Process Committee also be assigned to study the public participation process in legislative committees.

Sen. Davis asked if the five additional master study resolution items on page 30 of the mailing packet will be assigned by staff to the appropriate interim committees.

Speaker Curtis said that the study items on page 30, 34, 35, and 37 of the mailing packet will also need to be assigned by LMC to the interim committees in areas of assignment as suggested by staff. He indicated that the study items need to be given to the interim committees for their April meetings to allow them time to discuss them and report back to LMC. He stated that LMC will meet after the April interim meetings to review the study items so the committees will have them for their May meetings.

The Substitute Motion passed unanimously. Sen. Knudson was absent for the vote.

4. Sunset Review and Repeal Assignments

Ms. Taylor said that staff made recommendations as to which interim committees the Sunset Reviews and Repealers should be assigned, but the committee members have the opportunity to make any changes to those suggested assignments.

MOTION: Rep. Ferry moved that the items up for sunset review be assigned to the respective interim committees as recommended by staff with the interim committee recommendations to be given to LMC so the committee can prepare a bill for the 2007 General Session. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Interim Schedule

Mr. Christensen told the committee that staff has prepared a proposed interim schedule for LMC to review and make suggested changes or adopt it as it is. He indicated that the morning meetings from last year's schedule have been moved to the afternoon and the afternoon meetings have been moved to the morning.

MOTION: Pres. Valentine moved to adopt the proposed interim committee schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

Speaker Curtis said that appropriations subcommittees can meet up to two times during the year based upon the approval of LMC. He stated that legislative joint rules indicate that they shall meet once and may meet a second time with approval of LMC. However, prior to any appropriation subcommittee meeting, they need to submit their agenda to LMC for approval.

6. Legislative Site Visit

Mr. Christensen reminded the committee of the site visit that was taken last year to Box Elder and Cache counties and asked if the Legislature wants to do another site visit this year.

President Valentine said he received a letter from Rep. Becker and others regarding a possible site visit in Salt Lake City, but he feels the real pressures that the Legislature needs to look at now are in the Uintah

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Basin with the oil and gas issues. He indicated that he feels the Legislature needs to visit the Uintah Basin to gain a better understanding of those needs.

Sen. Davis said he feels that the site visit should involve Salt Lake County as well as Salt Lake City with the growing issues the county has regarding economic development, roads development, and other issues.

Rep Urquhart said he would like to see the Legislature visit Eastern Utah which has some unique needs and opportunities.

MOTION: Rep. Urquhart moved that the committee set September as the month to hold a site visit, but that they gather more information in the next month and run it by other members of the Legislature before deciding on the destination.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Ferry moved that the site visit be to the Uintah Basin area so the Basin can be preparing for the Legislature's visit.

The Substitute Motion failed. Voting in the negative were: Sen. Dmitrich, Sen. Davis, Sen. Hale, Sen. Mayne, Rep. Becker, and Rep. Jones.

The original motion passed unanimously.

Speaker Curtis asked staff to make some contacts with the Salt Lake, and Uintah Basin representatives and senators to see if any legislators from any of those areas that have been discussed would like to make a presentation at the next LMC meeting.

7. Technical and Fee Changes to Utah Legislative Policies and Procedures for Handling Records Requests

Ms, Taylor said that a number of bills passed that amended GRAMA (Government Records and Access Management Act) during the last legislative session. Consequently, staff has amended into the legislative policies and procedures those bills affecting GRAMA so the policies will be consistent with the statute. Other technical changes were made, including changes to the fee schedule. She reviewed the amendments with the committee members.

MOTION: Pres Valentine moved to accept the amendments recommended by staff to the legislative policies and procedures for handling records requests. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Authorized Legislative Meetings

Ms. Taylor indicated that staff has completed an update of which committee meetings are authorized for payment by adding those committees that have not been listed before and deleting those that have been repealed. She also clarified Amendment 1, which added the Utah Science Technology and Research Governing Authority, and that on page 76, a line was missed from statute under the Utah International Trade Commission which says there are three members of the Senate, not more than two of who are from the same political party, which needs to be added along with the amendment regarding the Utah Science Technology and Research Governing Authority.

MOTION: President Valentine moved to adopt the amendments to the Authorized Legislative Meetings as authorized by staff, along with pages 71-77. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Medicaid Study

Mr. Christensen indicated that the Medicaid Task Force bill did not pass in the 2006 Legislative Session, but there is still considerable interest in this issue, and the committee needs to decide how to proceed with that study.

MOTION: Rep. Urquhart moved that LMC authorize the creation of a Medicaid Interim Committee to study the state's Medicaid and related programs and make recommendations to the Legislature about modifications to the programs. He also moved that the speaker and the president would be authorized to appoint members of the Medicaid Interim Committee and that the committee would be governed by interim rules.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: President Valentine moved that LMC authorize the creation of a Medicaid Interim Committee consisting of five senators, not more than three from one party, and seven representatives, not more than five from one party. The committee will be authorized to meet six times and will provide a report to LMC by November 1, 2006. The committee was directed not to meet on interim days and the members were authorized to receive pay for up to six meetings. This committee is not limited to the scope and directives in S.B. 152. The committee will be jointly staffed by the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel and the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst and will be subject to interim rules. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Privatization Study

Mr. Christensen indicated that the privatization bill did not pass during the 2006 General Session so the committee has been asked to act on this issue. He outlined the duties and legislative membership on the Privatization Policy Board currently in place.

The committee moved on to the next item on the agenda.

11. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

12. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

President Valentine adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

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