

**MINUTES OF THE  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 19, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W025 House Building

**Members Present:**

Rep. Glenn A. Donnelson, House Chair  
Sen. Gregory S. Bell  
Sen. Brent H. Goodfellow  
Rep. Douglas C. Aagard  
Rep. Ron Bigelow  
Rep. DeMar Bud Bowman  
Rep. Lorie D. Fowlke  
Rep. Neil A. Hansen  
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson  
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings  
Rep. Curtis Oda  
Rep. Larry B. Wiley

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Peter Knudson, Senate Chair  
Pres. John L. Valentine  
Rep. Keith Grover  
Rep. John G. Mathis

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Eric N. Weeks, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Chelsea Barrett, Legislative 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](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Donnelson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. He announced that Sen. Knudson was excused from the meeting.

**MOTION:** Sen. Bell moved to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. State Government Efficiency Efforts**

Mr. John Nixon, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB), explained current processes in making the Governor's Balanced Scorecard Initiative (Scorecard) successful. He outlined the Scorecard and noted that it is a performance management tool used to evaluate government agencies' effectiveness. The Scorecard uses a scale system of "green", "yellow", or "red" to indicate the level of performance of various government agencies. He introduced Mr. Steve Starks, Utah Policy Partnership, who further explained the details of the Scorecard and the process to continue its success.

Mr. Mike Mower, State Planning Coordinator, GOPB, spoke about efforts to evaluate state agencies through the Scorecard. He noted that the Scorecard is a common set of metrics used as a performance tool and internal management tool, and that it can be used to drill down key performance issues in government agencies. He noted the goal is to have one common set of metrics used to streamline government agencies. Mr. Mower discussed how this initiative focuses on internal operations of government with the goal of providing citizens with information relating to the performance of government agencies. Rep. Hutchings noted his support for the Scorecard Initiative and noted how numbers will help with allocating budget dollars in the future.

Mr. Marvin Dodge, Deputy Director of the Department of Administrative Services, spoke to his department's efforts to service customers both in and out-of-state. He distributed the "Strategic Plan" from the Department of Administrative Services, a handout from the Committee mailing and additional copies of a presentation, which further explains how to deliver support services of the highest quality and best value to government agencies and the public.

### **3. Voter Designation of Political Party Affiliation for Primary Elections - - Sunset Review**

Mr. Christensen referred to a handout titled "Section 20A-2-107.5. Designating or changing party affiliation—Regular primary election" which had been distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting. This section allows a voter to designate a political party affiliation at the polling place if they have an unaffiliated status in order to vote in a regular primary election. This section will be repealed July 1, 2008 (see Section 63-55b-120). If it is repealed, unaffiliated voters who wish to vote in a closed primary election will have to designate their political party affiliation with the county clerk 30 days prior to the primary election. He explained that the Committee could recommend that the sunset provision remain, be extended, or be removed.

Mr. Todd Whiler, representing the Republican Party, explained that his party has voted to extend the provision for an additional five years. He reported that extending the provision would benefit the public and encourage voting participation. The Committee discussed the provision and the possibilities for closed primary elections and the necessity of professionalism at a voting place.

Mr. Todd Taylor, representing the Democratic Party, said he had nothing to add.

**MOTION:** Rep. Bowman moved to recommend reauthorization for an additional five years, of Section 20A-2-107.5, which allows an unaffiliated voter to designate a political party affiliation at the polling location in order to vote in a regular primary election. The motion passed, with Sen. Goodfellow and Rep. Hansen voting in opposition.

### **4. Election Law Changes from the County Clerks**

Mr. Scott Hogenson, Chair of the County Clerks' Legislative Policy Committee, discussed the "County Clerks' Legislative Requests" from the committee mailing packet. The nine requests included current law notations and committee staff notes. Mr. Hogenson described each legislative request and discussed the top priorities for the county clerks.

**MOTION:** Rep. Hansen moved to have draft legislation prepared for item one in the County Clerks' Legislative Requests, relating to expanding polling places for early voting. The motion passed with Rep. Donnelson and Rep. Hutchings voting in opposition.

**MOTION:** Rep. Hutchings moved to have draft legislation prepared for item two in the County Clerks' Legislative Requests, relating to uniform dates for ballot items. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Rep. Aagard moved to have draft legislation prepared for item four in the County Clerks' Legislative Requests, relating to financial disclosure for local school board candidates. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Sen. Bell moved to have draft legislation prepared for item five in the County Clerks' Legislative Requests, relating to signing ballot certifications. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Sen. Bell moved to have draft legislation prepared for item six in the County Clerks' Legislative Requests, relating to removing the requirement to return ballot books to county clerks after a municipal election. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Rep. Hutchings moved to have draft legislation prepared for item seven in the County Clerks' Legislative Requests, relating to removing now-obsolete language involving formatting of ballots. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Sen. Bell moved to have draft legislation prepared for item eight in the County Clerks' Legislative Requests, relating to candidate declaration deadlines. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Sen. Bell moved to have draft legislation prepared for item nine in the County Clerks' Legislative Requests, relating to changing special district elections to municipal election years. The motion passed unanimously.

## **5. Ombudsman Functions**

Mr. Christensen explained how ombudsmen generally provide information, investigation, and mediation to assist citizens and agencies in resolving disputes with the provision of government services. He noted that ombudsmen-type functions enable state government to help citizens through the maze of the bureaucracy. Mr. Christensen discussed verbiage in the "Ombudsman Options" packet, sent out to the Committee prior to the meeting, and went through proposed ombudsmen options.

Mr. Weeks discussed "Arizona's Legislative Ombudsman" approach. He noted this system is an additional option for consideration.

Rep. Hutchings introduced Ms. Lorna Koci, Utah Food Bank Services. Rep. Hutchings discussed the importance of government to provide public service. He indicated that the government should help citizens access information easily and open up lines of communication.

Ms. Koci presented and distributed a copy of a presentation for the 2-1-1 number that connects people to information. The 2-1-1 number is a free resource for the public. Ms. Koci noted the potential for 2-1-1 type programs in the state of Utah. The Committee discussed her presentation and the potential for ombudsmen-type functions using the 2-1-1 number approach.

Mr. Palmer DePaulis, Executive Director, Department of Community and Culture (DCC), explained the ongoing coordinated effort with Legislators in providing the public with information. He noted that DCC provides solutions, while 2-1-1 provides access. The Committee discussed the various components for ombudsmen-type functions and potential to look further into programs using a coordinated approach between the 2-1-1 number and DCC's current efforts.

**MOTION:** Rep. Fowlke moved to support the development of a comprehensive approach to address the expansion of ombudsmen-type functions and 2-1-1 state information services for future committee consideration, as suggested by Rep. Aagard and Rep. Hutchings. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Bigelow and Rep. Hendrickson absent for the vote.

## **6. Other Items / Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Bowman moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Donnelson adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.