

**MINUTES OF THE
IMMIGRATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, December 3, 2008 – 9:00 a.m. – Room C415 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Scott K. Jenkins, Senate Chair
Rep. Brad L. Dee, House Chair
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. Ross I. Romero
Rep. Stephen D. Clark
Rep. Glenn A. Donnelson
Rep. Ben C. Ferry
Rep. Neil A. Hansen
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent:

Sen. John W. Hickman

Staff Present:

Mr. Arthur L. Hunsaker, Policy Analyst
Mr. James L. Wilson, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Thomas R. Vaughn, 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.

1. Committee Business

Chair Dee called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Chair Jenkins moved to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Madsen absent for the vote.

2. E-Verify Webinar with Representatives of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

Ms. Gloria Aitken, Employment Eligibility Verification Representative, joined the Committee through a webinar conference call and used test data to demonstrate how to use the E-Verify system. Ms. Francine Hill, Employment Eligibility Verification Representative, participated in the webinar as well and helped to further explain the process and answer questions from the Committee.

Rep. Donnelson asked whether the discrepancies in the results were reported to the federal government. Ms. Aitken noted that at this time, it is not mandatory to report findings because the E-Verify system is a voluntary program for employers.

3. Fiscal and Administrative Impacts of S.B. 81, "Illegal Immigration"

Mr. Larry Richardson, Salt Lake County Treasurer, urged that the requirements to verify legal residency be limited to first time applicants after June 30, 2009. He explained the importance of allowing some discretion for local government to grant relief where applicable.

The Committee discussed the presentation.

4. E-Verify: Impact of S.B. 81 on Businesses with State Contracts

Mr. Tom Bingham, Utah Manufacturers Association, President, distributed and discussed "Utah Food Industry Association Letter to Immigration Interim Committee." Mr. Bingham explained the problems associated with "contract" as written in S.B. 81. Mr. Bingham and Mr. Olsen, as indicated in the letter, proposed a recommendation to the Committee that would define that a contract is "when a contractor participates in, and is awarded the bid through a request of proposal process with a public employer."

The Committee discussed the presentation.

5. Report: Task Force on Immigration

Mr. Wesley Smith, Director of Public Policy, Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, distributed "Salt Lake Chamber: Immigration Policy Statement." Mr. Smith explained the Chamber's vision and plan for immigration policy within Utah. He explained the Chamber is attempting to work at the state level for comprehensive immigration reform. The Chamber is requesting federal waivers, most particularly for the implementation of an Employer Sponsored Work Program, which would give the state authority to grant temporary work permits to undocumented persons.

The Committee discussed the presentation.

6. S.B. 81 Language Regarding Driver Privilege Cards

Ms. Nannette Rolfe, Director, Driver License Division, Department of Public Safety, distributed handout "SB81 effective July 2009." She recommended moving the intent of S.B. 81 into Title 53 with an effective date of January 1, 2010 and adding language to Title 53 which will give the Driver License Division authority to implement and comply with the provisions of the Federal REAL ID Act of 2005.

Mr. Bill Lloyd, Driver License Division, helped to explain the differences between the effective date of S.B. 81 and the effective date for the REAL ID federal implementation. He further explained the preference of aligning the two to help citizens and reduce costs.

7. Immigration Issues Related to Medical Services

This agenda item was not discussed.

8. Comments on Immigration

Mr. Bill Barton distributed a petition and explained his perceptions of illegal immigration and how it affects the business, social, educational, and health communities in Utah.

Rep. Clark requested statistical data for illegal immigration and the financial burdens it does or does not create for citizens in Utah. He noted that he will sponsor legislation that would require a study of the financial impacts of illegal immigrants in Utah.

9. Committee Business / Adjourn

The Committee decided to have the next meeting on Thursday, December 18th at 9:00 a.m. at the State Capitol Complex.

MOTION: Rep. Donnelson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Hansen was absent for the vote.

Chair Dee adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.