

**MINUTES OF THE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
and
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS
INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 17, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members Present

Sen. Peter C. Knudson, Senate Chair
Rep. Craig A. Frank, House Cochair
Rep. Fred R Hunsaker, House Cochair
Sen. Jon J. Greiner
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Rep. Douglas C. Aagard
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen
Rep. Ron Bigelow
Rep. Jim Bird
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson
Rep. Keith Grover
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. John G. Mathis
Rep. Larry B. Wiley

Members Absent:

Sen. Scott D. McCoy
Rep. Ben C. Ferry
Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig
Rep. R. Curt Webb

Staff Present:

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Joseph Wade, Policy Analyst
Mr. Christopher R. Parker, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy Bangerter, 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 Frank called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Bird moved to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Allen, Rep. Gibson, and Rep. Grover were absent for the vote.

2. Open and Public Meetings Act Training

Mr. Christensen, gave a required annual training to the Committee and referred to a handout titled "Open and Public Meetings Act," which was provided in the mailing packet. He explained the definition of public body, what is considered a meeting, and reviewed what is required regarding notice, minutes, recording, and the penalties for not following those requirements. He also reviewed when a closed meeting can be held.

3. Election Law Changes

Mr. Michael J. Cragun, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, distributed and reviewed "Office of the Lieutenant Governor - Election Issues for Consideration by the Committee," which listed proposed changes for the Committee's preliminary consideration regarding election issues. The list included the following policy issues:

- Addressing election law violations and complaints;
- Filing voter registration forms;
- Special election dates;
- Voter identification for registration;
- Financial disclosure cut-off dates;
- Municipal election in-person identification; and

- 5:00 p.m. declaration of candidacy deadline.

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to direct staff to work with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, either item by item, or by combining issues from the first side only of the proposed list and excluding the first item under policy issues. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Allen was absent for the vote.

4. Consolidation of State Agency Functions

Rep. Wayne Harper, study sponsor for 2009 interim study item "Consolidating State Functions," distributed "State Agency Consolidation" and "Proposal to Study Agency Realignment" and provided suggestions for possible interim study. He recommended that a small working group review the proposal and streamline the issues to bring back to the Committee.

5. Standardized Language for Per Diem and Travel Expenses for State Agency Boards

Mr. Parker explained that 2009 General Session H.B. 45, "Per diem and Travel Expense for State Boards and Commissions," would standardize the language necessary when a new board is created by referencing, rather than repeating, the provisions. He referred to "Standardized Language for Per diem and Travel Expenses for Utah Boards and Commissions," included in the mailing packet and said that the old language may now be replaced with the new language by reference in existing boards, if desired by the Legislature.

Chair Frank directed staff to open a bill file and begin the drafting process.

6. State Employee Compensation - Briefing

Mr. Christensen gave a slide presentation regarding state-paid cost of employee compensation for FY 2010 using data provided by the Department of Human Resource Management and the Division of Finance. He said that each year the department gathers data from multiple sources and uses it to make strategic workforce planning recommendations. He indicated that, on average, state employees are paid \$44,903 and benefits paid for an employee earning this average salary is \$23,908. With the addition of federal employer taxes on this average salary of \$3,143, the total cost to the state is \$71,954.

Mr. Jeff Herring, Executive Director, Department of Human Resource Management, also addressed the discussion of state employee compensation.

Ms. Debbie Cragun, Director of Compensation for the Department of Human Resource Management, gave a slide presentation showing state employee total compensation and how and where data was gathered. She said that even though state employee compensation in Utah is slightly lower than the market, benefits are typically a little above the market. She reviewed the time line they use to survey the annual costs. She reviewed the state's challenges and possible solutions. She expressed the Department's desire to find ways to help state departments identify concerns and work out improvements.

7. Four-day Work Week for State Employees Program - Update

Mr. Herring explained the "Working 4 Utah" initiative and his desire to provide an overview of the trial program from the employee's perspective. He distributed and reviewed a handout titled "Positively Worded Statements Toward 4 10s" that included survey data gathered by the Department of Human Services (DHS). He stated that the initiative will probably be extended for a time as DHS is waiting for

customer service and energy data, which the department believes are important elements to receive before making a permanent decision regarding the initiative.

Mr. Michael Hansen, Enterprise Coordinator, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, stated that employees generally like this policy. He said that in addition to considering the energy data, air quality is affected by having fewer commuters. He said they should have the data and a proposal by the October interim.

Chair Frank directed Mr. Herring and Mr. Hansen to bring the data and proposal back for the October meeting.

8. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Hendrickson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Knudson, Rep. Hunsaker, Rep. Bigelow, Rep. Gibson, and Rep. Wiley were absent for the vote.

Chair Frank adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.