

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

Wednesday, November 18 , 2009 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members

Sen. Peter C. Knudson, Senate Chair
Rep. Craig A. Frank, House Cochair
Rep. Fred 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. Ben C. Ferry
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Keith Grover
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. John G. Mathis

Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig
Rep. Curt R. Webb
Rep. Larry B. Wiley

Members Absent:

Sen. Scott D. McCoy
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson

Staff Present:

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Joseph Wade, Policy Analyst
Ms. Emily R. Brown, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Victoria S. Ashby, 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 Hunsaker called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Okerlund, Rep. Bigelow, Rep. Ferry, Rep. Grover, Rep. Hendrickson, and Rep. Mathis were absent for the vote.

2. Per Diem and Travel Expenses Modifications (draft legislation)

Mr. Christensen explained that during the June meeting, staff was directed to prepare draft legislation to replace old per diem and travel expense language for state boards and commissions. The new language is designed to standardize and streamline language corresponding to H.B. 45, "Per Diem and Travel Expense for State Boards and Commissions," which passed during the 2009 General Session.

MOTION: Rep. Frank moved to adopt 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Per Diem and Travel Expenses Modifications," as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Bigelow, Rep. Ferry, and Rep. Grover were absent for the vote.

3. Referendum Ballot Proposition Amendments (draft legislation)

Ms. Brown explained that during the September meeting, the Committee directed staff to prepare draft legislation to clarify the language on the ballot for a referendum to provide that a vote in favor means a vote to allow the law to take effect. She distributed a handout, "Referendum Ballot Proposition Amendments."

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to adopt 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Referendum Ballot Proposition Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Bigelow, Rep. Ferry, and Rep. Grover were absent for the vote.

4. Election Law Changes (draft legislation)

Mr. Christensen explained that during the June meeting, the Committee directed staff to work with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to prepare draft legislation covering certain election law technical and administrative issues that were presented. At the June meeting, he reviewed 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Election Modifications."

Mr. Mark Thomas, Office Administrator, Office of the Lt. Governor, reviewed and explained the amendments in 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Election Modifications."

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to adopt 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Election Modifications," as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Wiley was absent for the vote.

Mr. Thomas explained that 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Campaign Finance Revisions," would provide that all expenditures made by a corporation and a political issues committee must be reported as of five days before the required filing date of the financial statement. He explained this amendment would make these provisions consistent with parties and political action committee filing deadlines.

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to adopt 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Campaign Finance Revisions," as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Frank and Rep. Wiley were absent for the vote.

5. Notary Public Amendments (draft legislation)

Mr. Spencer Hadley, Deputy Administrator, Office of the Lt. Governor, explained 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Notary Public Amendments," which modifies the Notaries Public Reform Act by amending provisions related to information that must be included in a notarial certificate.

MOTION TO AMEND: Rep. Webb moved to add "type of" on line 31 after "the" and before "notarial."

SUBSTITUTE MOTION TO AMEND: Sen. Knudson made a substitute motion to add "type of" after "the" and before "notarial" on lines 12 and 31 and delete the word "all," on lines 13 and 32. The substitute motion passed unanimously. Rep. Wiley was absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Ferry moved to adopt 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Notary Public Amendments," as amended as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Wiley was absent for the vote.

6. Amended Campaign Financial Statements (draft legislation)

Rep. Sheryl L. Allen distributed "Campaign Finance Reports: Amendments 2006 Campaign" and "Campaign Finance Reports: Amendments 2008 Campaign." She explained the effort with H.B. 312, "Amended Campaign Finance Filings," which was introduced but did not pass during the 2009 General Session, was to reduce the number of amendments, avoid errors, avoid omission, and strive for accuracy. She committed to addressing the concerns raised by the Committee.

Committee members shared their concerns for further changes needed to the bill and expressed their support for providing transparency.

Rep. Seelig expressed her support for the bill and said she did not want to tramp all over the good to get to the perfect.

Rep. Bigelow stated that the bill needs to do more because it will not accomplish all that is needed; but in the hopes that it will accomplish something, he expressed his support for the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Bigelow moved to adopt 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Amended Campaign Financial Statements," as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Mathis and Rep. Wiley were absent for the vote.

7. Elected Municipal Officials Amendments (draft legislation)

Sen. Dennis Stowell introduced 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Elected Municipal Officials Amendments." The bill would prohibit a person serving in an elected municipal office from being considered for or appointed to a paid, appointed position in the municipality.

Mr. Lincoln Shurtz, Utah League of Cities and Towns, explained the question and related circumstances where this law change would have an impact.

Sen. Knudson expressed concern that there are still too many questions and broad issues that need to be addressed before the draft legislation could be adopted as a committee bill.

Mr. Lynn Pace, Salt Lake City, stated his concerns for mandating a person to resign one position before applying for another. He said that a blanket rule would be unrealistic in some jurisdictions.

8. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Seelig and Rep. Wiley were absent for the vote.

Chair Hunsaker adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.