

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

Wednesday, July 20, 2011 – 10:00 a.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members

Sen. Peter C. Knudson, Senate Chair
Rep. Kraig Powell, House Cochair
Rep. R. Curt Webb, House Cochair
Sen. Casey O. Anderson
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Sen. Ross I. Romero
Rep. David G. Butterfield
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Julie Fisher
Rep. Brad J. Galvez
Rep. Richard A. Greenwood
Rep. Brian S. King
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Jeremy A. Peterson

Rep. Curtis Oda
Rep. Lee B. Perry
Rep. Douglas Sagers
Rep. Stephen E. Sandstrom
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley
Rep. Carl Wimmer

Members Absent:

Rep. Keith Grover

Staff Present:

Mr. Arthur L. Hunsaker, Policy Analyst
Mr. Joseph T. 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 Knudson called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Dayton moved to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2011 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Butterfield, Rep. Edwards, Rep. Julie Fisher, Rep. King, Rep. Litvack, and Rep. Sagers were absent for the vote.

2. Voting Equipment

Mr. Lowell Nelson, Vice Chair, Utah Republican Party, distributed and reviewed "Preferential Voting Possibilities in Utah Elections" that explained the concept and the equipment needed to implement the preferential voting system in Utah.

Mr. Scott Hogensen, County Clerks Legislative Policy Committee, explained the cost and training efforts involved in changing to the preferential voting system.

Mr. Mark Thomas, Elections Director, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, responded to questions from the Committee regarding the use of preferential voting.

3. 2nd Special Session Legislation S.B. 2001, "Bonds Secured by Federal Mineral Lease Payments" (Okerlund)

Sen. Ralph Okerlund distributed and explained 2011 Second Special Session S.B. 2001, "Bonds Secured by Federal Mineral Lease Payments," which extends the date after which a special service district bond secured by federal mineral lease payments may not be issued. The date of extension being proposed is from December 31,

2010 to December 31, 2020. The legislation also provides for sunset review of the bond provisions described in the bill before it is repealed on December 31, 2020.

Mr. LeGrand Bitter, Utah Association of Special Districts, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Jenkins moved to adopt 2011 Second Special Session S.B. 2001, "Bonds Secured by Federal Mineral Lease Payments," as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Romero was absent for the vote.

4. Electronic Signatures

Mr. Thomas discussed the feasibility of accepting and using electronic signatures. In approving this item for committee study, the Legislative Management Committee changed the study's wording to: "To study the advisability and feasibility of electronic signatures in candidate petitions, initiative/referendum petitions, and political petitions, and the potential questions regarding validity of those signatures."

Mr. Thomas explained that the Utah Supreme Court has determined that electronic signatures are legal; however, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor has stated that electronic signatures cannot be used until many issues regarding them have been addressed so the voters can have confidence in the system. He reviewed some of the benefits of using electronic signatures and recommended the Committee continue to study its feasibility and use.

5. Boards and Commissions Survey

Rep. David Litvack distributed and explained the handout "Board/Commission/Committee Survey." He explained the changes to questions from the previous survey and noted that the number of boards and commissions included in the survey had been reduced to focus on only those created in both statute and in the constitution. He asked for input from the Committee.

Mr. Hunsaker noted the list of boards and commissions not created in Utah statute included in the handout distributed to the Committee. He received input from committee members.

MOTION: Rep. Litvack moved to approve the draft survey and to distribute it to all boards and commissions created in Utah statute or in the constitution.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Sen. Jenkins moved to approve the survey as distributed, but to distribute it to all boards and commissions. The substitute motion passed unanimously. Sen. Romero was absent for the vote.

6. Committee Business/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Romero and Rep. King were absent for the vote.

Chair Knudson adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.