

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

Wednesday, September 21, 2011 – 9:00 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. Ross I. Romero
Rep. Stewart Barlow
Rep. David G. Butterfield
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Brad J. Galvez
Rep. Richard A. Greenwood
Rep. Keith Grover
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Curtis Oda
Rep. Lee B. Perry

Rep. Jeremy A. Peterson
Rep. Stephen E. Sandstrom
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley
Rep. Carl Wimmer

Members Absent:

Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Rep. Brian S. King
Rep. Douglas Sagers

Staff Present:

Mr. Arthur L. Hunsaker, 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 Webb called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. Rep. Barlow was welcomed and introduced as the replacement for former Rep. Julie Fisher.

MOTION: Sen. Dayton moved to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2011 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Oda, Rep. Powell, and Rep. Wimmer were absent for the vote.

2. State Agency Consolidation

Rep. Wayne Harper updated the Committee on efforts to study the possible consolidation of the functions of several departments of state government. He stated more information would be made available to the Committee on a later agenda.

3. Definition of Countywide Services

Mr. Brent Gardner, Executive Director, Utah Association of Counties (UAC), requested statutory clarification on which public services constitute countywide services. He recommended that county services be listed in one place in statute.

Mr. Larry Ellertson, President, UAC, reviewed types of services currently being offered. He expressed the Association's desire that the code be more specific regarding what services should be offered by the county. He said it would be more efficient, help to avoid future problems, and foster a good working relationship with municipalities.

Mr. Lincoln Shurtz, Utah League of Cities and Towns, stated that there is a fair amount of disagreement between cities and counties regarding who should offer certain services and that are difficult to define in statute. He explained the financial ramifications and how certain decisions could result in double taxation. He expressed the League's desire to have more discussion with the UAC.

Mr. Gardner stated UAC is only interested in addressing those services where there is a general agreement with the cities and not those where there have been disagreements with the cities.

The Committee requested that UAC and the League of Cities and Towns prepare separate lists of public services that counties and cities should provide and that they both agree on and present them at the October meeting.

4. Draft Legislation, "Election Law Amendments"

Ms. Brown distributed and explained 2012 General Session draft legislation, "Election Law Amendments," (2012FL-0177/004) and highlighted the proposed changes to statute.

Mr. Mark Thomas, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, responded to questions from the Committee. He stated that there is interest from the governor's office to include portions of this bill in the upcoming special session.

Sen. Dayton expressed, for the record, her disappointment that Utah is not holding an early presidential primary election, since two of the candidates have roots in Utah.

The Committee requested additional drafting changes and directed that they be prepared for the October meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Litvack moved to bring an updated draft of 2012 General Session draft legislation, "Election Law Amendments," (2012FL-0177/004) back to the Committee in October. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Knudson and Rep. Powell were absent for the vote.

5. Draft Legislation, "Voter Information Pamphlets"

Ms. Brown explained that 2012 General Session draft legislation, "Voter Information Pamphlets," (2012FL-0214/002) distributed to the Committee during the meeting, is an election law cleanup effort. It would change the form of the pamphlet from a paper-based to more of a web-based document. She also distributed "Voter Information Pamphlet Deadlines" that introduced possible amendments to voter information pamphlet deadlines.

Mr. Mark Thomas, Elections Director, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, explained why the Lieutenant Governor would like to change the deadlines. He explained that voters, at registration, will determine and record if they want a paper copy or an electronic copy of the voter information pamphlet. He said that an online pamphlet will allow a voter to see information applicable to them and what will be on their own ballot.

The Committee requested that voter information pamphlet deadlines be added to the draft legislation for discussion at a future meeting.

6. Committee Business/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Dayton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Knudson, Rep. Fisher, Rep. Litvack, and Rep. Powell absent for the vote.

Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m.