

**MINUTES OF THE
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, May 16, 2012 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 450 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Casey O. Anderson, Senate Chair
Rep. R. Curt Webb, House Chair
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Sen. Karen Mayne
Rep. Stewart Barlow
Rep. David G. Butterfield
Rep. Jack R. Draxler
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Brian S. King

Rep. Jeremy A. Peterson
Rep. Keven S. Stratton
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Staff Present:

Mr. Joseph Wade, Policy Analyst
Ms. Victoria Ashby, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Chelsea B. Lloyd, 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 2:27 p.m.

The committee members and staff introduced themselves.

Chair Webb referred the committee to the document "Open and Public Meetings Act -- Quick Summary." He explained that committee staff is available to answer questions about the open and public meetings provisions.

2. Overview of Political Subdivisions

Mr. Wade presented "Overview of Political Subdivisions." He reviewed the general background of the committee's jurisdiction, the political subdivisions entities within the state, and classification of counties and municipalities. Mr. Wade also distributed "Population and Classification of Counties," "Population and Classification of Municipalities," and "Census Designated Places (CDP) in Utah (2010 Census)."

3. Definition of Rural

Rep. Ronda Menlove explained the background of Master Study Resolution item #50, which is "To study the definition of 'rural' as it pertains to the classification of counties." She encouraged the committee to consider this issue with the hope of finding a common definition throughout the Utah Code. She explained that having a uniform definition would help to better guide programs and policies throughout the state.

Mr. Paul Larsen, Director of Economic Development, Brigham City, explained that both rural and urban are hard to define using a bright line test. He encouraged the committee to define rural in terms other than county size.

The committee discussed the presentation.

4. Constable Amendments

Rep. Lee Perry explained the background to Master Study Resolution item #88, which is "To study jurisdictional issues related to constables." He distributed "Constable and Process Server Issues" and explained the primary issues surrounding the identification of constables and the scope of their authority.

The committee discussed the presentation.

5. Sovereign Citizen Liens

Rep. Richard Greenwood explained the background to Master Study Resolution item #167, which is "To study sovereign citizen liens." With the chairs' permission, the committee viewed "Sovereign Citizens and Law Enforcement," a short video presenting the challenges with groups identifying themselves as sovereign citizens complying with the law.

Mr. Ernest Rowley, Weber County Recorder/Surveyor, spoke to issues with outstanding liens in Weber County and the need for a solution to the problem regarding sovereign citizens' liens.

6. Interim Study Items

The committee discussed the possibility of requesting from the Legislative Management Committee (LMC) additional items to study from the Master Study Resolution. Chair Webb asked the committee to identify items from the Business Labor Interim Committee and the Government Operations Interim Committee study lists that the committee would like to study this interim.

MOTION: Rep. Draxler moved to request from the LMC the authorization to study item #55 on the Master Study Resolution. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Mayne, Rep. Barlow, Rep. King, and Rep. Wheatley were absent for the vote.

MOTION: Sen. Anderson moved to request from the LMC the authorization to study item #56 on the Master Study Resolution.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Edwards moved to request from the LMC the authorization to study items #51 and #64 on the Master Study Resolution. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Barlow, Rep. King, and Rep. Wheatley were absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Edwards moved to request from the LMC the authorization to study items #8, 10, 11, 12, 21, and 22. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Barlow, Rep. King, Rep. Wheatley were absent for the vote.

7. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Barlow, Rep. King, and Rep. Wheatley were absent for the vote.

Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.