

**MINUTES OF THE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, June 20, 2012 – 10:30 a.m. – Room 25 House Building

Members

Rep. Kraig Powell, House Chair
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Rep. Craig A. Frank
Rep. Brad J. Galvez
Rep. Richard A. Greenwood
Rep. Keith Grover
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Curtis Oda
Rep. Lee B. Perry
Rep. Douglas Sagers

Members Absent:

Sen. Peter C. Knudson, Senate Chair
Sen. Ross I. Romero
Rep. Janice M. Fisher

Staff Present:

Mr. Arthur L. Hunsaker, Policy Analyst
Ms. Emily R. Brown, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Kimberly A. Heiner, 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 Powell called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m. Chair Powell excused Sen. Knudson, Sen. Romero, and Rep. Fisher from the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Dayton moved to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2012 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Perry absent for the vote.

2. Political Party Affiliation

Mr. Hunsaker gave an overview of "20A-2-107.5 - Designative or changing party affiliation" and "63I-2-220 - Repeal Dates, Title 20A," which were mailed to the committee prior to the meeting. He said there were three options for committee action: take no action, which would cause the statute to sunset a year from this July 1; extend the sunset to some future date; or remove the sunset provision to allow the statute to continue indefinitely.

MOTION: Sen. Dayton moved to not change the statute and to allow it to sunset.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Litvack made a substitute motion to extend the sunset for five years. The substitute motion failed with Rep. Chavez-Houck, Rep. Litvack, and Rep. Powell voting in favor and Rep. Perry absent for the vote.

Sen. Dayton's original motion passed with Rep. Chavez-Houck, Rep. Litvack, and Rep. Powell voting in opposition and Rep. Perry absent for the vote.

3. 2012 Fourth Special Session Draft Legislation, "Retention of Outside Counsel, Expert Witnesses, and Litigation Support Services"

Sen. Adams spoke to 2012 Fourth Special Session, S.B. 4002, "Retention of Outside Counsel, Expert Witnesses, and Litigation Support Services."

MOTION: Sen. Dayton moved to pass out S.B. 4002 with a favorable recommendation for the special session. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Oda and Rep. Perry absent for the vote.

4. Report: Election-related studies

Ms. Brown discussed and distributed "Government Operations Interim Committee, June 20, 2012, Election Issues raised by the Lt. Governor" that outlined 16 issues the Lt. Governor's Office presented at May's interim meeting. She also distributed "Government Operations Interim Committee, June 20, 2012, Options for Possible Committee Bill Files," which listed additional issues the committee could choose to address.

Mr. Mark Thomas, Elections Director, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, responded to Ms. Brown's legislative options and to questions from committee members.

MOTION: Rep. Grover moved to direct staff to open a bill file on item 1 "Give the chief elections officer authority during a declared emergency to designate alternative methods and deadlines for returning absentee ballots." The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Perry absent for the vote.

MOTION: Sen. Dayton moved to direct staff to open a bill file on item 3 "Change the date on which an absentee ballot may be requested or voted and mailed" and item 15 "Require a person or group sponsoring an absentee ballot to drive to register." The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Grover and Rep. Perry absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Grover moved to direct staff to open a bill file on item 7 "Address when a Lt. Governor candidate files a declaration of candidacy" and item 13 "Address candidacy for lieutenant governor." The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Perry absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Grover moved to direct staff to open a bill file on item 2 "Change deadlines to replace a candidate's name on the ballot," item 4 "Change the requirement for filing a declaration of candidacy in-person," and item 14 "Increase the filing fee for candidates." The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Oda absent for the vote.

Mr. Thomas suggested a \$50 minimum increase for the current filing fees.

MOTION: Rep. Sagers moved to direct staff to open a bill file on item 5 to have all types of elections, other than the general election, to be held in August. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Oda absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Grover moved to direct staff to open a bill file on item 6 "Repeal Sections 20A-11-102 and 20A-11-1101, which require a media owner to file a financial statement if influencing voting at an election."

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Sen. Dayton moved to go to the next agenda item and to allow committee members to open bill files to address the rest of the issues on the Lt. Governor's issues raised sheet. The substitute motion passed unanimously with Rep. Litvak and Rep. Oda absent for the vote.

5. Privatization of Surplus Property Services

Mr. Hunsaker said that Sen. Weiler had requested discussion of privatization of surplus property services.

Mr. Kent Beers, Director, Division of Purchasing and General Services, discussed and distributed "State Surplus Property; Pilot Program." He said this would privatize a portion of the surplus property services and explained some of the pros and cons of implementing this program. He responded to questions from the committee.

Sen. Weiler said that he asked for this item to be studied because he wanted to determine whether Utah could financially benefit from some privatization as explained by Mr. Beers. He responded to questions from the committee.

Mr. Dan Martinez, Program Manager, Surplus Property, responded to a question from Rep. Chavez-Houck on the process for state agencies to use surplus property before purchasing new items. Mr. Martinez also responded to additional questions from the committee.

Chair Powell turned the chair over to Sen. Dayton.

6. Anonymous Campaign Contributions

Rep. Powell said that he has seen numerous campaign financial disclosure statements with anonymous campaign contributions and that Utah's current law does not address this. He said that he has opened a bill file to address this, and discussed 2013 General Session draft legislation "Anonymous Campaign Contributions" (2013FL-0079/002). He responded to questions from the committee.

7. Boards and Commissions Review

Mr. Hunsaker explained some of the results of the Boards and Commission Review Survey that Rep. Litvack had requested during the previous interim. He said the intent of the survey was to determine if the boards and commissions in Utah are continuing to meet the purpose they were originally created for, and to determine whether there are any boards and commissions that should be repealed. He said that five statutorily created boards or commissions responded that their group should be repealed. He distributed and discussed "Boards and Commission Survey Report."

MOTION: Rep. Perry moved to open a bill file to repeal the five boards or commissions created in statute that responded positively to being repealed, as well as other boards or commissions the committee may choose to add to the draft bill in the future. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Greenwood, Rep. Litvack, and Rep. Oda absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Perry moved to continue the survey until the end of the 2012 interim to allow for additional boards or commissions to respond to the survey. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Oda, Rep. Greenwood, and Rep. Litvack absent for the vote.

8. Committee Business/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Dayton moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Greenwood, Rep. Litvack, and Rep. Oda absent for the vote.

Chair Powell adjourned the meeting at 12:47 p.m.