

**MINUTES OF THE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 19, 2012 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 25 House Building

Members Present:

Senate Chair Peter C. Knudson
House Chair Kraig Powell
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. Ross I. Romero
Rep. Janice M. Fisher

Staff Present:

Mr. Arthur L. Hunsaker, Policy Analyst
Ms. Emily R. Brown, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Anna M. Allen, 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.leg.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Powell called the meeting to order at 2:27 p.m. Sen. Romero and Rep. Fisher were excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2012, committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Galvez absent for the vote.

2. Draft legislation "Requirements to Change Form of County Government"

Rep. Grover introduced draft legislation "Requirements to Change Form of County Government" (2013FL-0136/003) and asked Mr. Hunsaker to give further explanation.

Mr. Hunsaker stated that the main change was to the signature requirements for a petition to change the form of a county government. He responded to questions from the committee.

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to pass draft legislation "Requirements to Change Form of County Government" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Frank, Rep. Greenwood, and Rep. Oda absent for the vote.

3. Draft legislation "Personal Use of Campaign Funds"

Rep. Grover introduced draft legislation "Personal Use of Campaign Funds" (2013 FL-0134/003) and asked Ms. Brown to give further explanation.

Ms. Brown explained that the legislation prohibits use of money deposited in a campaign account for personal or other prohibited uses. She continued that the legislation allows counties and municipalities to define personal use and to establish their own penalties and enforcement of these requirements. Ms. Brown responded to questions from the committee.

Mr. Mark Thomas, Lieutenant Governor's Office, addressed questions from the committee. Committee members made comparisons to state law and discussed advantages of uniformity and flexibility.

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved that the committee move on to the next agenda item. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Greenwood and Rep. Perry absent for the vote.

Sen. Knudson requested that Mr. Thomas work with committee staff to prepare changes to the draft legislation for future committee consideration.

4. Draft legislation "Campaign Filing by Media Owner"

Mr. Hunsaker stated that draft legislation "Campaign Filing by Media Owner" (2013FL-0132/002) would remove the requirement for a media owner to file a statement when a newspaper or periodical prints information that may influence an election.

Chair Powell asked Mr. Thomas to explain why the Lieutenant Governor's Office brought this issue to the committee.

Mr. Thomas responded that the office considered the sections proposed for repeal to be out of date.

MOTION: Rep. Litvack moved to pass draft legislation "Campaign Filing by Media Owner" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Greenwood, Rep. Grover, and Rep. Perry absent for the vote.

5. Draft legislation "Scheduling of Special Elections"

Mr. Hunsaker explained that draft legislation "Scheduling of Special Elections" (2013FL-0130/002) would amend the dates on which a statewide or local special election may be scheduled. Mr. Hunsaker responded to questions from the committee.

Rep. Litvack asked Mr. Thomas to explain why the Lieutenant Governor's Office brought this issue to the committee.

Mr. Thomas explained that a special election in an odd-numbered year should be combined with a primary election that August.

MOTION: Rep. Frank moved to pass draft legislation "Scheduling of Special Elections" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Greenwood, Rep. Grover, and Rep. Perry absent for the vote.

6. Draft legislation "Elections During Declared Emergency"

Ms. Brown discussed the definition of a declared emergency and listed what notifications must be made during a declared emergency. She described that draft legislation "Elections During a Declared Emergency" (2013FL-0138/002) would authorize the lieutenant governor to take certain actions related to voting when a declared emergency affects an election. Ms. Brown responded to questions from the committee.

MOTION: Rep. Litvack moved to continue on to the next agenda item. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Greenwood, Rep. Grover, and Rep. Perry absent for the vote.

Chair Powell relinquished the chair to Sen. Knudson.

7. Draft legislation "Anonymous Campaign Contributions"

Rep. Powell discussed draft legislation "Anonymous Campaign Contributions" (2013FL-0079/002). He said that legislation is needed to address what happens to anonymous campaign contributions over \$50, which are not permitted under Utah law.

MOTION: Sen. Dayton moved that the committee move on to the next agenda item.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Chavez-Houck moved to pass out "Anonymous Campaign Contributions" with a favorable committee recommendation. The motion failed with Rep. Powell, Rep. Chavez-Houck, and Rep. Litvack voting in favor and Rep. Greenwood and Rep. Grover absent for the vote.

Chair Knudson indicated that the committee will move on to the next agenda item.

Sen. Knudson relinquished the chair to Rep. Powell.

8. Additional Election-related Legislation

Ms. Brown discussed three issues that were brought forward by the Lieutenant Governor's Office in the June 20, 2012, committee meeting that the committee wanted to return to at a later date. Ms. Brown gave a description and update on the status of each issue: (1) issues related to campaign finance, (2) the issue of standardizing criminal provisions in Utah Code, Title 20A, "Election Code," (3) and election complaints.

9. Internal Service Fund Oversight

Mr. Hunsaker explained that the Executive Appropriations Committee referred this issue to the committee, and introduced Mr. Gary Ricks, Fiscal Analyst, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, who discussed the issue in more depth and made recommendations for future legislative action.

Mr. Mark VanOrden, Interim Director of Technology Services; Mr. John Reidhead, Director, Division of Finance; and Mr. Dan Frei, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Technology Services, commented on the report.

10. Committee Business / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Greenwood and Rep. Grover absent for the vote.

Chair Powell adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.