

(Draft – Awaiting Approval)
**MINUTES OF THE
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, November 18, 2015 – 8:30 a.m. – Room 25 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher, Senate Chair
Rep. R. Curt Webb, House Chair
Sen. Wayne A. Harper
Sen. Karen Mayne
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson
Rep. Johnny Anderson
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. Kim Coleman
Rep. Don L. Ipson
Rep. Michael S. Kennedy
Rep. Kraig Powell
Rep. Douglas V. Sagers

Rep. Earl D. Tanner
Rep. John R. Westwood
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent:

Rep. Rich Cunningham
President Wayne L. Niederhauser

Staff Present:

Ms. Megan L. Bolin, Policy Analyst
Ms. Christine R. Gilbert, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Joshua Weber, Legislative Assistant

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 8:36 a.m. Rep. Cunningham was excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Chair Webb moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2015, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Mayne, Sen. Stevenson, Rep. Anderson, Rep. Coleman, Rep. Sagers, and Rep. Wheatley were absent for the vote.

2. Good Landlord Program (draft legislation)

Rep. Froerer and Rep. Brian S. King presented draft legislation "Good Landlord Program Amendments" (2016FL-0294/014).

Mr. Cameron Diehl, Director of Government Relations, Utah League of Cities and Towns, spoke for the bill and described the alternative approach to address the criminal exclusion issue with the Good Landlord Program. Mr. Diehl explained that Ogden City would pilot a collaborative effort to reintegrate offenders and help them find housing.

Rep. Gage Froerer further explained that the bill also addresses certain administrative aspects of the Good Landlord Program, including clarifying the rights and responsibilities of landlords, tenants, and cities.

Ms. Anna Brower, Strategic Communications Manager, ACLU of Utah, discussed the involvement of the organization's involvement in Good Landlord Programs in the Ogden area.

Ms. Holly Langton, Policy Analyst, Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, discussed her findings from her review of many studies regarding the re-entry of convicted criminals into society and the challenges those individuals face.

MOTION: Rep. Briscoe moved to approve draft legislation "Good Landlord Program Amendments" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Stevenson and Rep. Westwood were absent for the vote.

3. Community Development and Renewal Agencies (draft legislation)

Sen. Harper and Rep. Stephen G. Handy presented draft legislation "Community Development and Renewal Agencies" (2016FL-0466/004). They responded to questions from the committee and reported that they are not seeking a committee recommendation.

MOTION: Chair Webb moved to support the direction and efforts of Sen. Harper and Rep. Handy regarding draft legislation "Community Development and Renewal Agencies." The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Mayne was absent for the vote.

4. Subdivision Base Parcel Tax Amendments (draft legislation)

Chair Webb presented draft legislation "Subdivision Base Parcel Tax Amendments" (2016FL-0328/028). Chair Webb explained that although the committee voted previously to recommend this bill, the revised draft addresses additional policy issues that were raised after the initial vote.

The public was invited to comment.

Mr. Lincoln Shurtz, Governmental Affairs Director, Utah Association of Counties, spoke for the bill. Mr. Shurtz expressed that this bill allows for a process that counties were already implementing, and provides the authorization and a procedure for doing so.

Mr. Jerry Houghton, Recorder, Tooele County, spoke for the bill, reiterating that this bill provides statutory authorization for counties to address a long-standing problem.

MOTION: Rep. Powell moved to approve draft legislation "Subdivision Base Parcel Tax Amendments" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Harper, Sen. Mayne, and Rep. Anderson were absent for the vote.

5. Historic Districts

Chair Webb gave an overview of the issues regarding historic districts. He informed the committee that stakeholders have been working at the local level to address the issues, and, provided the stakeholders find a resolution, he does not recommended the Legislature pursue policy on the subject at this time.

Mr. Justin Allen, Utah Association of Realtors, acknowledged the concerns of the Legislature and residents, and expressed that the goal is to work on the issues at the local level and have Salt Lake City amend their historic district ordinance to encourage consensus-based historic district creation.

Mr. Lynn Pace, President, Executive Board, Utah League of Cities and Towns, acknowledged that a historic district may be contentious, and he explained that Salt Lake City has been engaged in a dialogue to evaluate the historic district creation process. He said there is a broad consensus that the issue is best addressed by a local ordinance rather than a statewide statute, and Salt Lake City has committed to fine-tune its ordinance and improve the historic district creation process.

MOTION: Chair Webb moved that the committee conclude the historic district policy is not recommended for the legislature to address. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Mayne, Rep. Anderson, and Rep. Tanner were absent for the vote.

6. Municipal and County Code Enforcement

Sen. Thatcher updated the committee on the issues surrounding code enforcement. After studying the issue, Sen. Thatcher concluded that the problem seemed to be an isolated occurrence and that legislation is not required.

MOTION: Sen. Thatcher moved to conclude that municipal and county code enforcement is not recommended policy for the legislature to address. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Harper, Sen. Mayne, and Rep. Anderson were absent for the vote.

7. Land Information Records

Mr. Andrew Gruber, Executive Director, and Mr. Ted Knowlton, Deputy Director, Wasatch Front Regional Council, gave an update on their efforts to consolidate and streamline county land data to assist with economic development and land planning. Mr. Gruber and Mr. Knowlton responded to questions from the committee and reported that no legislation is being proposed at this time.

MOTION: Chair Webb moved to conclude that land information records is not recommended policy for the Legislature to address. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Harper, Sen. Mayne, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Anderson, and Rep. Tanner were absent for the vote.

8. Other Items/Adjourn

Chair Webb thanked the committee members for their work during this interim.

MOTION: Rep. Sagers moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Harper, Sen. Mayne, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Anderson, and Rep. Tanner were absent for the vote.

Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.