

**MINUTES OF THE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 15, 2004 – 10:45 a.m. – Room W020 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. John W. Hickman, Senate Chair
Rep. James A. Ferrin, House Chair
Sen. Ron Allen
Rep. Doug Aagard
Rep. Ron Bigelow
Rep. DeMar "Bud" Bowman
Rep. Don E. Bush
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. Fred R. Hunsaker
Rep. Eric Hutchings
Rep. Roz McGee
Rep. Karen Morgan
Rep. Peggy Wallace

Members Absent:

Sen. Beverly Evans
President Al Mansell
Sen. Michael Waddoups

Staff Present:

Mr. John Q. Cannon, Managing Policy Analyst
Mr. John L. Fellows, Deputy General Counsel
Mr. Eric N. Weeks, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Cassandra N. Bauman, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of related materials can be found at www.leg.utah.gov or by contacting the committee secretary, Cassandra Bauman, at 538-1032. A recording of the meeting may also be available from the committee secretary.

1. Committee Business

Chair Ferrin called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m.

Chair Ferrin welcomed Rep. Fred Hunsaker and Mr. Eric Weeks to the Committee.

MOTION: Rep. Bowman moved to approve the minutes of the June 16 and August 18, 2004 meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Election Law

Mr. Weeks explained recent changes to election law and reviewed discussion from the August 18, 2004 meeting concerning inconsistencies between election processes for bond elections and regular elections. He indicated that legislation was drafted in response to this issue, but after further review a more complete rewrite and clean-up of the code sections governing bond elections could be more effective.

Chair Ferrin directed staff to continue reviewing the issues, to do as much recodification and clean up as needed, and bring a completed draft to the Committee at a future meeting.

Chair Ferrin indicated that he asked Mr. Weeks to prepare information about voter registration for this meeting.

Mr. Weeks distributed "State of Utah Mail-In Voter Registration Form" and H.B. 301, "Voter Registration Amendments." He explained the constitutional and statutory requirements for registration to vote in Utah. He indicated that H.B. 301 requires a citizenship affidavit for all registrants beginning January 1, 2005.

Ms. Amy Naccarato, Director, State Election's Office, indicated that the voter registration process is performed on an honor system. She stated that the forms must be completed and identification given to register.

Committee discussion followed.

3. Boards and Commissions

Mr. Cannon distributed materials on boards and commissions. He explained that the chairs had directed staff to research the five committees which, according to survey responses, are either no longer functioning or should not continue. He indicated that the Livestock Market Committee functions on an as-needed basis and the Child Support Advisory Guidelines Committee meets every four years and is the mechanism used by the state to secure federal funds. He noted that legislation was drafted to repeal the remaining three boards and was distributed prior to the meeting. He indicated that further discussions have taken place with the agencies involved and that representatives of the Utah Pioneer Community Advisory Board were present to provide comment to the Committee.

Mr. Gordon Walker, Division of Housing and Community Development, recommended that the Utah Pioneer Communities Advisory Board continue. He stated that there is marginal cost and that the Board serves an important purpose.

MOTION: Sen. Hickman moved to adopt "Repeal of Vehicle Equipment Safety Commission" and "Repeal of State Debt Collection Advisory Board" as committee bills. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee discussed options for improving the boards and commissions of the state.

4. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Hickman moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Ferrin adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.