

**MINUTES OF THE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, June 15, 2005 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W130 House Building

Members Present:

Rep. Douglas C. Aagard, House Chair
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Brent H. Goodfellow
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. DeMar "Bud" Bowman
Rep. Craig W. Buttars
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove
Rep. Glenn A. Donnelson
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings
Rep. John G. Mathis

Members Absent:

Sen. Parley Hellewell, Senate Chair
Sen. Dan R. Eastman
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Patrick L. Painter
Rep. Mark W. Walker
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Staff Present:

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst
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 is available from the committee secretary.

1. Committee Business

Chair Aagard called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. Sen. Hellewell, Rep. Fisher, and Rep. Wheatley were excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Bowman moved to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Donnelson and Rep. Hutchings absent for the vote.

2. Early Voting and Voting Centers

Mr. Christensen reviewed early and absentee voting materials as distributed prior to the meeting.

Mr. Michael Cragun, Director, State Elections Office, distributed "Voting System Recommendation: May 5, 2005." He and Mr. Stephen MacDonald, Deputy Director, State Elections Office, explained a proposal for conducting early voting and creating voting centers and identified specific legislation that would be needed to provide for new voting equipment and a new voting process. They responded to questions from the Committee.

Mr. Calvin Robison, County Clerk/Auditor, Washington County, spoke in favor of early voting and the creation of voting centers to utilize voting equipment to the best extent possible with minimum expense.

Ms. Pat Beckstead, Elections Coordinator, Davis County, also spoke in favor of early voting and the creation of voting centers. She stated that with a change in equipment a change in process is necessary. She expressed concern for the cost of maintaining the new system along with accommodating growth in the voting population.

Mr. Brent Gardner, Utah Association of Counties, stated that the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) has forever changed elections across the country. He indicated that the cost burden of complying with HAVA will be placed on counties, which will flow through to the taxpayers. He said taxpayers benefit by allowing early voting and voting centers because this plan decreases costs.

Chair Aagard directed staff to draft legislation pursuant to the State Elections Office's comments for the Committee to discuss at a future meeting.

3. Government Records Access and Management Task Force -- Update

Mr. Weeks distributed and reviewed "Potential GRAMA and Electronic Messaging Principles." He updated the Committee on the Government Records Access and Management Task Force, which recently discussed electronic messaging and reviewed other states' policies on the issue.

4. Government Operations Agency Overview

Mr. Edward T. Alter, Utah State Treasurer, and Mr. Robert Kirk, Chief Deputy State Treasurer, explained the purpose and functions of the state treasurer's office.

Ms. D'Arcy Dixon Pignanelli, Executive Director, Department of Administrative Services, distributed "Department of Administrative Services: Utah State Archives," "Department of Administrative Services: Office of State Debt Collection," and "Department of Administrative Services: Division of Fleet Operations."

Ms. Patricia Smith-Mansfield, Director, Division of Archives and Records Service, explained the purpose and functions of the division.

Ms. Gwen Anderson, Director, Office of State Debt Collection, explained the mission and responsibilities of the office. She responded to questions from the Committee.

Mr. Steven Saltzgiver, Director, Division of Fleet Operations, explained the purpose and functions of the division. He responded to questions from the Committee.

5. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Goodfellow moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard and Rep. Donnelson absent for the vote.

Chair Aagard adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.