

**MINUTES OF THE  
HOUSE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
STANDING COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, February 22, 2017 • 4:10 p.m. • 30 House Building

**Members Present:**

Rep. Jeremy A. Peterson, Chair  
Rep. Norman K Thurston, Vice Chair  
Rep. Patrice M. Arent  
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck  
Rep. Brad M. Daw  
Rep. Daniel McCay  
Rep. Merrill F. Nelson  
Rep. Lee B. Perry  
Rep. Val L. Peterson

**Members Absent:**

Rep. Dean Sanpei

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Brian J. Bean, Policy Analyst  
Karen C. Allred, Committee Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [le.utah.gov](http://le.utah.gov).

Chair Thurston called the meeting to order at 4:17 p.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Daw moved to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2017 and February 21, 2017 meetings.

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0-5.

Yeas:

Rep. P. Arent  
Rep. B. Daw  
Rep. L. Perry  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. N. Thurston

Nays:

Abs:

Rep. R. Chavez-Houck  
Rep. D. McCay  
Rep. M. Nelson  
Rep. J. Peterson  
Rep. D. Sanpei

**1. H.B. 391 Driver License Revisions (*Quinn, T.*)**

Rep. Tim Quinn presented the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. McCay moved to pass H.B. 391 out favorably.

The motion passed with a vote of 7-0-3.

Yeas:

Rep. P. Arent  
Rep. R. Chavez-Houck  
Rep. B. Daw  
Rep. D. McCay  
Rep. L. Perry  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. N. Thurston

Nays:

Abs:

Rep. M. Nelson  
Rep. J. Peterson  
Rep. D. Sanpei

**MOTION:** Rep. McCay moved to place H.B. 391 on the Consent Calendar.  
The motion passed with a vote of 7-0-3.

Yeas:

Rep. P. Arent  
Rep. R. Chavez-Houck  
Rep. B. Daw  
Rep. D. McCay  
Rep. L. Perry  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. N. Thurston

Nays:

Abs:

Rep. M. Nelson  
Rep. J. Peterson  
Rep. D. Sanpei

**2. H.B. 314 Election Law Revisions (*Stratton, K.*)**

Rep. Keven J. Stratton presented the bill.

Mr. Ryan Cowley, Elections Director, Weber County, spoke to the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Daw moved to replace H.B. 314 with 1st Substitute H.B. 314.

The motion passed with a vote of 8-0-2.

Yeas:

Nays:

Abs:

Rep. P. Arent  
Rep. R. Chavez-Houck  
Rep. B. Daw  
Rep. D. McCay  
Rep. M. Nelson  
Rep. L. Perry  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. N. Thurston

Rep. J. Peterson  
Rep. D. Sanpei

**MOTION:** Rep. V. Peterson moved to pass 1st Substitute H.B. 314 out favorably.  
The motion passed with a vote of 8-0-2.

Yeas:

Nays:

Abs:

Rep. P. Arent  
Rep. R. Chavez-Houck  
Rep. B. Daw  
Rep. D. McCay  
Rep. M. Nelson  
Rep. L. Perry  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. N. Thurston

Rep. J. Peterson  
Rep. D. Sanpei

**3. H.B. 295 Candidate Filing Amendments (*Ward, R.*)**

Rep. Raymond P. Ward presented the bill.

Mr. Tyler Moss, attorney, Salt Lake City, spoke in favor of the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Daw moved to move to the next item on the agenda.

The motion passed with a vote of 7-2-1.

Yeas:

Rep. B. Daw  
Rep. D. McCay  
Rep. M. Nelson  
Rep. L. Perry  
Rep. J. Peterson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. N. Thurston

Nays:

Rep. P. Arent  
Rep. R. Chavez-Houck

Abs:

Rep. D. Sanpei

**4. H.B. 348 Voter Records Amendments (*Edwards, R.*)**

Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards presented the bill with the assistance of Ms. Amy Jo Curtis, victim advocate, Salt Lake and Utah Counties.

Mr. Mark Thomas, Director of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, spoke to the bill.

Mr. Brendan Phillips, resident, Stansbury Park, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. Peter Corroon, Chair, Utah Democratic Party, spoke to the bill.

Mr. Ronald Mortenson, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Ms. Erin Jemison, Public Policy Director, YWCA Utah, spoke in favor of the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. J. Peterson moved to hold H.B. 348.

The motion passed with a vote of 8-0-2.

Yeas:

Rep. P. Arent  
Rep. R. Chavez-Houck  
Rep. B. Daw  
Rep. M. Nelson  
Rep. L. Perry  
Rep. J. Peterson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. N. Thurston

Nays:

Abs:

Rep. D. McCay  
Rep. D. Sanpei

**5. H.B. 372 Candidate Replacement Amendments (Arent, P.)**

Rep. Arent presented the bill with the assistance of Mr. Scott Howell, former State Senator, and Mr. Justin Lee, Deputy Director of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Mr. Arie Van De Graaff, Utah Association of Counties, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. Cameron Diehl, Utah League of Cities and Towns, spoke in favor of the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Perry moved to amend H.B. 372 with Amendment #1:

1. *Page 2, Lines 39 through 43:*

- 39           (2) An election officer shall    :  
                  (a)    fill a candidate vacancy described in Subsection (1) by  
40    certifying the next available candidate for the office for the general election ballot who  
41    received the highest number of votes in the primary election without receiving a sufficient  
42    number of votes to qualify for the general election ballot    {    }-            ; and  
                  (b) immediately notify the candidate described in Subsection (2)(a) that the  
                  candidate is certified for the general election ballot.  
43            Section 2. Section **20A-9-203** is amended to read:

The motion passed with a vote of 8-0-2.

Yeas:

Nays:

Abs:

Rep. P. Arent  
Rep. R. Chavez-Houck  
Rep. B. Daw  
Rep. M. Nelson  
Rep. L. Perry  
Rep. J. Peterson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. N. Thurston

Rep. D. McCay  
Rep. D. Sanpei

**MOTION:** Rep. Perry moved to pass H.B. 372 out favorably.

The motion passed with a vote of 8-0-2.

Yeas:

Rep. P. Arent  
Rep. R. Chavez-Houck  
Rep. B. Daw  
Rep. M. Nelson  
Rep. L. Perry  
Rep. J. Peterson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. N. Thurston

Nays:

Abs:

Rep. D. McCay  
Rep. D. Sanpei

**6. H.B. 349 Ranked Choice Voting (*Chavez-Houck, R.*)**

Rep. Chavez-Houck presented the bill with the assistance of Rep. Marc K. Roberts.

Mr. Arie Van De Graaff, Utah Association of Counties, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Mr. Lowell Nelson, resident, Utah County, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. Jim Higbee, resident, Centerville City, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. David Berg, resident, Salt Lake City, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. Brendan Phillips, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Ms. Nancy Lord, former committeewoman, Republican National Committee, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. Dave Duncan, resident, Orem, spoke in favor of the bill.

Ms. Kathryn Gritten, resident, Sandy, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. Caleb Horlacher, resident, Riverton, spoke in favor of the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. J. Peterson moved to pass H.B. 349 out favorably.

The motion passed with a vote of 8-1-1.

Yeas:

Rep. P. Arent  
Rep. R. Chavez-Houck  
Rep. B. Daw  
Rep. D. McCay  
Rep. L. Perry  
Rep. J. Peterson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. N. Thurston

Nays:

Rep. M. Nelson

Abs:

Rep. D. Sanpei

**MOTION:** Rep. V. Peterson moved to adjourn.  
The motion passed with a vote of 9-0-1.

Yeas:

Rep. P. Arent  
Rep. R. Chavez-Houck  
Rep. B. Daw  
Rep. D. McCay  
Rep. M. Nelson  
Rep. L. Perry  
Rep. J. Peterson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. N. Thurston

Nays:

Abs:

Rep. D. Sanpei

Chair Thurston adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

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Rep. Jeremy A. Peterson, Chair