



MINUTES

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 18, 2020 | 1:00 p.m. | 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher, Chair
Rep. Marc K. Roberts, Chair
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Sen. Todd Weiler
Rep. Kyle R. Andersen
Rep. Brady Brammer
Rep. Suzanne Harrison
Rep. Jon Hawkins
Rep. Karen Kwan
Rep. Phil Lyman
Rep. Val L. Peterson

Rep. Candice B. Pierucci
Rep. Travis M. Seegmiller
Rep. Andrew Stoddard

Members Absent:

President J. Stuart Adams
Sen. Don L. Ipson

Staff Present:

Lisa Sorensen, Policy Analyst
Alan Houston, Associate General Counsel
Thomas R. Vaughn, Associate General Counsel
Tracey Fredman, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1 . Committee Business

Chair Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Pierucci moved to approve the minutes of the June 16,2020, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 8.

Yeas-8

Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. B. Brammer
Rep. S. Harrison
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. M. Roberts
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher

Nays-0

Absent-8

Sen. J. Adams
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. D. Ipson
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Sen. T. Weiler

2 . Elections

[2a - Draft Legislation, "Election Amendments"](#)

Sen. Wayne Harper discussed the provisions of draft legislation, "Elections Amendments," which would temporarily modify the Election Code to protect the public health and safety during the 2020 regular general election.

Rep. Stephen G. Handy discussed the need for the proposed changes and responded to questions from the committee.

Thomas Vaughn, Associate General Counsel, Legislative Research and General Counsel, responded to a question regarding same day registration.

Justin Lee, Director of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, responded to a question regarding funding for educating the public on the provisions of the bill and to encourage voting by mail.

Ricky Hatch, Clerk/Auditor, Weber County, and Chair, Clerk's Legislative Policy Committee, spoke in support of the legislation and discussed the clerks' preference to mail ballots out 28 days before the day of the election.

Mark Tourangeau, citizen, Wasatch County, spoke in support of the draft legislation.

MOTION: Rep. Hawkins moved to favorably recommend draft legislation, "Elections Amendments," for consideration during the Sixth Special Session. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 1 - 3.

Yeas-12

Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. B. Brammer
Rep. S. Harrison
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. M. Roberts
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Sen. D. Thatcher

Nays-1

Rep. A. Stoddard

Absent-3

Sen. J. Adams
Sen. D. Ipson
Sen. T. Weiler

3 . Referenda Laws

[3a - Draft Legislation, "Local Referendum Amendments"](#)

Rep. Merrill F. Nelson presented draft legislation, "Local Referendum Amendments," and reviewed the provisions of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Thatcher moved to recommend favorably draft legislation, "Local Referendum Amendments," for consideration during the Sixth Special Session. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 2.

Yeas-14

Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. B. Brammer
Rep. S. Harrison
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. M. Roberts
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher
Sen. T. Weiler

Nays-0

Absent-2

Sen. J. Adams
Sen. D. Ipson

4 . Plurality

[4a - Plurality in Utah since SB 54](#)

Lisa L. Sorensen, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, discussed the issue of plurality in partisan primary races in Utah.

Chair Roberts updated the committee on the pilot project established by 2018 General Session H.B. 35, "Municipal Alternate Voting Methods Pilot Project."

Justin Lee, Director of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, addressed options for consideration regarding plurality.

Ricky Hatch, Clerk/Auditor, Weber County, discussed three arguments in favor of ranked-choice voting: plurality, civility, and cost savings.

Joshua Daniels, Chief Deputy Clerk/Auditor, Utah County, discussed processes of the ranked choice voting pilot in Utah County and how statewide implementation might be accomplished.

Rep Mike Winder spoke in favor of ranked choice voting and asked for committee support on a bill he will be opening to address Plurality.

MOTION: Sen. Thatcher moved that the committee open a bill file, under Rep. Mike Winder's name, to address Plurality and that the draft legislation will be brought before the committee at a future meeting for review and discussion. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Yeas-12

Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. S. Harrison
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. M. Roberts
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher

Nays-0

Absent-4

Sen. J. Adams
Rep. B. Brammer
Sen. D. Ipson
Sen. T. Weiler

5 . Public Information Website

[5a - 2020 General Session H.B. 286, "Public Information Website Amendments"](#)

[5b - Senate Committee Amendments to 2020 General Session H.B. 286, "Public Information Website Revisions"](#)

Rep. Pierucci asked for committee support to update the public information website as introduced and amended by the Senate in the 2020 General Session.

MOTION: Rep. Harrison moved that the committee open a bill file to address revisions to the Utah public information website as drafted and amended by the Senate in 2020 General Session H.B. 286, "Public Information Website Amendments." The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Yeas-12

Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. S. Harrison
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. M. Roberts
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher

Nays-0

Absent-4

Sen. J. Adams
Rep. B. Brammer
Sen. D. Ipson
Sen. T. Weiler

6 . State Disaster Task Force

[6a - Utah Task Force 1, Background and Proposed Legislation, draft](#)

[6b - Memo of Agreement for Participation in the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System](#)

[6c - Compare of 2020 General Session HB 49, Emergency Task Force, with First Sub HB 49](#)

Bryan Case, Program Manager, Utah Task Force-1, Special Operations Division Chief, Unified Fire Authority, briefed the committee on the types of rescue operations the task force is equipped to handle and requested consideration of proposed draft legislation that would create an interlocal agreement between the state and the task force to better define how local officials would access the task force to perform an in-state rescue.

Gopi Krishna, citizen, asked what the work of the task force is in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Kristen Chevrier, citizen, asked the same question as the previous speaker.

Brian Case explained that the task force is not delegated to responding to public health emergencies.

MOTION: Rep. Pierucci moved that the committee open a bill file to address authorization between Utah Task Force-1 and certain state entities for responding to an emergency. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Yeas-12

Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. S. Harrison
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. M. Roberts
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher

Nays-0

Absent-4

Sen. J. Adams
Rep. B. Brammer
Sen. D. Ipson
Sen. T. Weiler

MOTION: Rep. Pierucci moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Yeas-12

Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. S. Harrison
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. M. Roberts
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher

Nays-0

Absent-4

Sen. J. Adams
Rep. B. Brammer
Sen. D. Ipson
Sen. T. Weiler

Chair Roberts adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.