



# MINUTES

## GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 | 8:00 a.m. | 120 Senate Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher, Chair  
Sen. Ronald M. Winterton, Co-Chair  
Rep. Calvin R. Musselman, Chair  
Sen. David G. Buxton  
Sen. Don L. Ipson  
Sen. Jen Plumb  
Rep. Bridger Bolinder  
Rep. Scott H. Chew  
Rep. Kay J. Christofferson  
Rep. Stephanie Gricius  
Rep. Michael J. Petersen

Rep. Thomas W. Peterson  
Rep. Val L. Peterson  
Rep. Douglas R. Welton

**Members Absent:**

Rep. Sahara Hayes  
Rep. Andrew Stoddard

**Staff Present:**

Lisa Sorensen, Policy Analyst  
Michael Cipriano, Associate General Counsel  
Thomas R. Vaughn, Managing 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](http://www.le.utah.gov).

### 1. Committee Business

Chair Musselman called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

### 2. Post-Election Audit Study

[2a - Audit Study Final Report](#)

[2b - Driver License Division Report, HB 448](#)

Thomas Vaughn, Managing Associate General Counsel, introduced the issue.

Shelly Jackson, Deputy Director of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, reported on a post-election audit study provided to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Dr. Damon Cann, Professor, Political Science, Utah State University, and Dr. Quin Monson, Professor, Political Science, Brigham Young University, discussed the methods studied to improve post-election audits, offered recommendations for post-election audit requirements, and responded to committee members' questions.

**MOTION:**

Sen. Thatcher moved to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2023, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 7.

Yeas - 9

Sen. D. Buxton  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. S. Gricius  
Rep. C. Musselman  
Rep. M. Petersen  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Sen. D. Thatcher  
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0Absent - 7

Rep. B. Bolinder  
Rep. S. Hayes  
Sen. D. Ipson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Sen. J. Plumb  
Rep. A. Stoddard  
Rep. D. Welton

**3. Draft Legislation "Election Revisions"**[3a - 2024 General Session draft legislation, Election Revisions, v2](#)

Michael Cipriano, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, introduced 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Election Revisions," which would modify provisions of the Election Code.

Brody Bailey, Elections Coordinator, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, highlighted the provisions of the draft legislation.

Public comment was heard regarding the draft legislation from the following individuals:

Christy Henshaw, Chair, Utah County Republican Party;

Roy Piskadlo, Election Certification Matters;

Steve Aste, Election Certification Matters;

David Burton; and

Darilyn Bomilee.

**MOTION:** Sen. Thatcher moved to recommend 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Election Revisions," as a committee bill. The motion failed with a vote of 4 - 8 - 4.

Yeas - 4

Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. C. Musselman  
Sen. D. Thatcher  
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 8

Rep. B. Bolinder  
Sen. D. Buxton  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. S. Gricius  
Sen. D. Ipson  
Rep. M. Petersen  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Sen. J. Plumb

Absent - 4

Rep. S. Hayes  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. A. Stoddard  
Rep. D. Welton

**4. Draft Legislation "Criminal Threat or Interference Amendments"**[4a - 2024 General Session draft legislation, Criminal Threat or Interference Amendments, v2.pdf](#)

Thomas Vaughn, Managing Associate General Counsel, reviewed provisions of 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Criminal Threat or Interference Amendments," which would modify provisions related to criminal offenses conducted against a public servant, party official, or voter.

Public comment was heard regarding the draft legislation from the following individuals:

Shelly Jackson, Deputy Director of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor; and

David Burton.

Committee discussion followed on a technical error within the bill.

**MOTION:** Sen. Thatcher moved to amend the bill by replacing "public servant" on line 167 with "party official." The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 11

Rep. B. Bolinder  
Sen. D. Buxton  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. S. Gricius  
Sen. D. Ipson  
Rep. C. Musselman  
Rep. M. Petersen  
Sen. J. Plumb  
Sen. D. Thatcher  
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Rep. S. Hayes  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. A. Stoddard  
Rep. D. Welton

Will Carlson, Chief Policy Advisor, Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office, discussed constitutional free speech issues under the proposed legislation.

**MOTION:** Rep. Christofferson moved to recommend as amended 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Criminal Threat or Interference Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 11

Rep. B. Bolinder  
Sen. D. Buxton  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. S. Gricius  
Rep. C. Musselman  
Rep. M. Petersen  
Sen. J. Plumb  
Sen. D. Thatcher  
Rep. D. Welton  
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Rep. S. Hayes  
Sen. D. Ipson  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. A. Stoddard

Sen. Thatcher assumed the chair.

## **5. Draft Legislation "Electronic Notarization Amendments"**

### [5a - 2024 General Session draft legislation, Electronic Notarization Amendments, v5](#)

Rep. Musselman reviewed the provisions of 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Electronic Notarization Amendments," which would modify provisions related to electronic notarizations.

**MOTION:** Rep. Musselman moved to recommend 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Electronic Notarization Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 12

Rep. B. Bolinder  
Sen. D. Buxton  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. S. Gricius  
Sen. D. Ipson  
Rep. C. Musselman  
Rep. M. Petersen  
Sen. J. Plumb  
Sen. D. Thatcher  
Rep. D. Welton  
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0Absent - 4

Rep. S. Hayes  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. A. Stoddard

**6. Draft Legislation "State Boards and Commissions Amendments"**[6a - 2024 General Session draft legislation, State Boards and Commissions Amendments, v3](#)

Lisa Sorensen, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, reviewed the provisions of 2024 General Session draft legislation, "State Boards and Commissions Amendments," which would establish sunset provisions for certain boards and commissions.

**MOTION:** Rep. Musselman moved to recommend 2024 General Session draft legislation, "State Boards and Commissions Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 12

Rep. B. Bolinder  
Sen. D. Buxton  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. S. Gricius  
Sen. D. Ipson  
Rep. C. Musselman  
Rep. M. Petersen  
Sen. J. Plumb  
Sen. D. Thatcher  
Rep. D. Welton  
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0Absent - 4

Rep. S. Hayes  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. A. Stoddard

Rep. Musselman resumed the chair.

**7. Draft Legislation "Division of Human Resource Management Amendments"**[7a - 2024 General Session draft legislation, Division of Human Resource Management Amendments, v2](#)

Rep. Gricius reviewed the provisions of 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Division of Human Resource Management Amendments," which would modify provisions of the Utah State Personnel Management Act.

**MOTION:** Rep. Gricius moved to recommend 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Division of Human Resource Management Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 12

Rep. B. Bolinder  
Sen. D. Buxton  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. S. Gricius  
Sen. D. Ipson  
Rep. C. Musselman  
Rep. M. Petersen  
Sen. J. Plumb  
Sen. D. Thatcher  
Rep. D. Welton  
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0Absent - 4

Rep. S. Hayes  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. A. Stoddard

**8. Draft Legislation "Paid Leave Modifications"**[8a - 2024 General Session draft legislation, Paid Leave Modifications, v2](#)

Michael Cipriano, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, introduced the draft legislation to be discussed.

Rep. Gricius outlined the provisions of 2024 General Session draft legislation, Paid Leave Modifications," which would address paid leave for certain state employees.

**MOTION:** Rep. Gricius moved to recommend 2024 General Session draft legislation, Paid Leave Modifications," as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 12

Rep. B. Bolinder  
Sen. D. Buxton  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. S. Gricius  
Sen. D. Ipson  
Rep. C. Musselman  
Rep. M. Petersen  
Sen. J. Plumb  
Sen. D. Thatcher  
Rep. D. Welton  
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0Absent - 4

Rep. S. Hayes  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. A. Stoddard

**9. Draft Legislation "Department of Government Operations Amendments"**[9a - 2024 General Session draft legislation, Department of Government Operations Divisions, v2](#)

Lisa Sorensen, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, introduced the draft legislation to be discussed.

Rep. Gricius discussed the provisions of 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Department of Government Operations Amendments."

**MOTION:** Rep. Gricius moved to recommend 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Department of Government Operations Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 12

Rep. B. Bolinder  
Sen. D. Buxton  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. S. Gricius  
Sen. D. Ipson  
Rep. C. Musselman  
Rep. M. Petersen  
Sen. J. Plumb  
Sen. D. Thatcher  
Rep. D. Welton  
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0Absent - 4

Rep. S. Hayes  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. A. Stoddard

**10. Draft Legislation "Initiatives and Referenda Amendments"**

[10a - 2024 General Session draft legislation, Initiatives and Referenda Amendments, Option A](#)

[10b - 2024 General Session draft legislation, Initiatives and Referenda Amendments, Option B](#)

Thomas Vaughn, Managing Associate General Counsel, reviewed provisions of 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Initiatives and Referenda Amendments," Options A and B, for the committee's consideration. The legislation would amend provisions relating to collecting signatures for, or removing signatures from, an initiative petition or a referendum petition.

Rep. Jennifer Daily-Provost and Brody Bailey, Elections Coordinator, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, discussed the legislation and responded to committee members' questions.

Public comment was heard regarding the draft legislation from the following individuals:

Brian McKenzie, Davis County Clerk; and

Tracie Halvorsen.

**MOTION:** Rep. Gricius moved to recommend 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Initiatives and Referenda Amendments," Option A, as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 12

Sen. D. Buxton  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. S. Gricius  
Sen. D. Ipson  
Rep. C. Musselman  
Rep. M. Petersen  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Sen. J. Plumb  
Sen. D. Thatcher  
Rep. D. Welton  
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0Absent - 4

Rep. B. Bolinder  
Rep. S. Hayes  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. A. Stoddard

**11. Draft Legislation "Tourism Fund Amendments"**

This agenda item was not discussed.

## **12. Required Reports**

Lisa Sorensen, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, noted that required reports have been uploaded to the committee's webpage.

## **13. Other Items/Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Michael Petersen moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 14

Rep. B. Bolinder  
Sen. D. Buxton  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. K. Christofferson  
Rep. S. Gricius  
Sen. D. Ipson  
Rep. C. Musselman  
Rep. M. Petersen  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Sen. J. Plumb  
Sen. D. Thatcher  
Rep. D. Welton  
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Rep. S. Hayes  
Rep. A. Stoddard

Chair Musselman adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.