



MINUTES

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 | 1:15 p.m. | 210 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. Sahara Hayes
Rep. Michael J. Petersen
Rep. Thomas W. Peterson
Rep. Val L. Peterson
Rep. Andrew Stoddard
Rep. Douglas R. Welton

Staff Present:

Megan L. Bolin, Senior 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.

1. Committee Business

Chair Thatcher called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Megan Bolin, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, showed committee members how to access the statutorily required reports that have been submitted online by state agencies.

MOTION: Rep. Thomas Peterson motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2024, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 13

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

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

2. Draft Legislation, "Appearance of Candidate Name on Ballot"

[4 - Draft Legislation, Appearance of Candidate Name on Ballot \(V008\)](#)

Thomas Vaughn, Managing Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, discussed the provisions of 2025 General Session draft legislation, "Appearance of Candidate Name on Ballot," which would establish criteria for permitting a candidate to use the candidate's middle name, nickname, or initial on a ballot.

Ryan Cowley, Elections Director, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, and Ricky Hatch, Weber County Clerk/Auditor, responded to committee members' questions.

Public comment was heard from:

Ricky Hatch;

Ryan Cowley;

Marilyn Momeny; and

Maryann Christensen.

MOTION: Rep. Bolinder moved to amend 2025 General Session draft legislation, "Appearance of Candidate Name on Ballot," on line 278 following "candidate's name" by deleting "described in Subsection (2) or (3)" and inserting "appearing on a ballot as otherwise described in this section". 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. S. Hayes
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. D. Thatcher
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. C. Musselman
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. D. Welton

MOTION: Rep. Gricius moved to recommend as amended 2025 General Session draft legislation, "Appearance of Candidate Name on Ballot," 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
Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. V. Peterson
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. D. Thatcher
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Rep. C. Musselman
Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. D. Welton

3. Draft Legislation, "Ballot Information Accessibility Amendments"

[5 - Draft Legislation, Ballot Information Accessibility Amendments \(V003\)](#)

Thomas Vaughn, Managing Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, introduced the issue addressed in 2025 General Session draft legislation, "Ballot Information Accessibility Amendments."

Rep. Gricius discussed the provisions of the draft legislation, which would make it unlawful to access or disclose certain information relating to the method and timing of a voter casting a vote or returning a ballot, including a penalty for a violation.

Public comment was heard from:

Mac Sims; and

Marilyn Momeny.

MOTION: Sen. Winterton moved to recommend 2025 General Session draft legislation, "Ballot Information Accessibility 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. S. Hayes
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. V. Peterson
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. D. Thatcher
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Rep. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. D. Welton

4. Draft Legislation, "Election Code Amendments"

[6 - Draft Legislation, Election Code Amendments \(V009\)](#)

Ryan Cowley, Elections Director, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, discussed the provisions of 2025 General Session draft legislation, "Election Code Amendments," which would make several technical changes to the Election Code.

Public comment was heard from:

Ricky Hatch; and

Marilyn Momeny.

MOTION: Rep. Musselman moved to recommend 2025 General Session draft legislation, "Election Code Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 6.

Yeas - 10

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 6

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. S. Gricius
Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. D. Welton

5. Draft Legislation, "Construction Amendments"

[7 - Draft Legislation, Construction Amendments \(V011\)](#)

Rep. Musselman introduced 2025 General Session draft legislation, "Construction Amendments," which would establish standards and penalties for non-compliance related to storm water runoff regulation and inspection.

Public comment was heard from:

John Mackey, Director, Division of Water Quality; and

Leif Elder, Director, Policy and Legislative Services, Utah Department of Transportation.

No action was taken on this item.

6. Draft Legislation, "Election Information Amendments"

[2 - Draft Legislation, Election Information Amendments \(V020\)](#)

Rep. Norman K. Thurston introduced 2025 General Session draft legislation, "Election Information Amendments."

Megan Bolin, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, presented the provisions of the draft legislation, which would authorize, under certain circumstances, the county clerk, county legislative body, or certain government entities, to examine an electronic copy of election material to conduct election research.

Rep. Thurston responded to questions from the committee.

Public comment was heard from:

Mac Sims;

Dave Burton;

Marilyn Momeny;

Jennifer Garner;

Fred Hayes;

Matt Weed;

Darlene McDonald;

Ricky Hatch; and

Ryan Cowley.

MOTION: Sen. Buxton moved to go to the next agenda item. The motion failed with a vote of 7 - 6 - 3.

Yeas - 7

Sen. D. Buxton
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. D. Ipson
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. D. Thatcher
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 6

Rep. K. Christofferson
Rep. S. Gricius
Rep. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. D. Welton

Absent - 3

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

MOTION: Rep. Musselman moved to recommend 2025 General Session draft legislation, "Election Information Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion failed with a vote of 7 - 7 - 2.

Yeas - 7

Rep. S. Chew
Rep. K. Christofferson
Rep. S. Gricius
Rep. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 7

Sen. D. Buxton
Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. D. Ipson
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher
Sen. R. Winterton

Absent - 2

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. V. Peterson

7. Draft Legislation, "Ballot Counting and Drop Box Amendments"[3 - Draft Legislation, Ballot Counting and Drop Box Amendments \(V011\)](#)

Rep. Norman K. Thurston discussed the provisions of 2025 General Session draft legislation, "Ballot Counting and Drop Box Amendments," which would provide that, for a ballot that is mailed to be valid, the election officer must receive the ballot before the polls close on election day.

Public comment was heard from:

Nat Williams;

Jennifer Garner;

Marilyn Momeny;

Matt Williams; and

Brian McKenzie, Davis County Clerk.

MOTION: Rep. Musselman moved to recommend 2025 General Session draft legislation, "Ballot Counting and Drop Box Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion failed with a vote of 4 - 7 - 5.

Yeas - 4

Rep. K. Christofferson
Rep. S. Gricius
Rep. C. Musselman
Rep. T. Peterson

Nays - 7

Sen. D. Buxton
Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher
Rep. D. Welton
Sen. R. Winterton

Absent - 5

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. V. Peterson

8. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Plumb moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 5.



Yeas - 11

Sen. D. Buxton
Rep. K. Christofferson
Rep. S. Gricius
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. C. Musselman
Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher
Rep. D. Welton
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. V. Peterson

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