

TASK FORCE ON VOTER PARTICIPATION

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Patrice M. Arent

Senate Sponsor: Peter C. Knudson

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates the Voter Participation Task Force.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ creates the Voter Participation Task Force and provides for the task force's membership;
- ▶ provides for salary and expenses of task force members; and
- ▶ describes task force duties.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2015:

- ▶ to the Legislature - Senate, as a one-time appropriation:
 - from the General Fund, one-time, \$30,000, with intent language that \$17,000 be used to procure research services;
- ▶ to the Legislature - House of Representatives, as a one-time appropriation:
 - from the General Fund, one-time, \$34,000, with intent language that \$18,000 be used to procure research services; and
- ▶ to the Legislature - Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, as a one-time appropriation:
 - from the General Fund, one-time, \$40,000.

Other Special Clauses:



28 This bill provides a special effective date.

29 This bill provides a repeal date.

30 **Uncodified Material Affected:**

31 ENACTS UNCODIFIED MATERIAL



33 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

34 Section 1. **Voter Participation Task Force -- Creation and membership -- Interim**
35 **rules followed -- Compensation -- Staff.**

36 (1) There is created the Voter Participation Task Force consisting of the following nine
37 members:

38 (a) four members of the Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate, no more than
39 three of whom may be from the same political party; and

40 (b) five members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the
41 House of Representatives, no more than three of whom may be from the same political party.

42 (2) (a) The president of the Senate shall appoint one of the task force members from
43 the Senate as cochair of the task force.

44 (b) The speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one of the task force
45 members from the House of Representatives as cochair of the task force.

46 (3) Salaries and expenses of the members of the task force shall be paid in accordance
47 with Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5, Chapter 3, Legislator Compensation.

48 (4) The task force shall comply with the legislative interim rules in conducting the task
49 force's business.

50 (5) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall provide staff support
51 to the task force.

52 Section 2. **Scope and responsibilities.**

53 (1) The task force shall:

54 (a) study issues related to voter participation in the state, including:

55 (i) past and present voter participation trends in the state and in the United States;

56 (ii) administrative barriers that may inhibit voter participation; and

57 (iii) other issues specific to the state that may affect voter participation; and

58 (b) at the November 2016 meeting of the Government Operations Interim Committee,

59 present to the committee:

60 (i) details of the work performed by the task force;

61 (ii) a description of issues the task force identified in the state that affect voter

62 participation; and

63 (iii) recommendations on how the state can improve voter participation in the state.

64 (2) The task force may contract with one or more entities that have expertise in public
 65 opinion research to conduct research on a subject matter under consideration by the task force.

66 **Section 3. Appropriation.**

67 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, for
 68 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015, the following sums of money
 69 are appropriated from resources not otherwise appropriated, or reduced from amounts
 70 previously appropriated, out of the funds or accounts indicated. These sums of money are in
 71 addition to any amounts previously appropriated for fiscal year 2015.

72 To Legislature - Senate

73 From General Fund, One-time \$30,000

74 Schedule of Programs:

75 Administration \$30,000

76 To Legislature - House of Representatives

77 From General Fund, One-time \$34,000

78 Schedule of Programs:

79 Administration \$34,000

80 To Legislature - Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

81 From General Fund, One-time \$40,000

82 Schedule of Programs:

83 Administration \$40,000

84 The Legislature intends that \$18,000 of the amount appropriated to the House of
 85 Representatives, and \$17,000 of the amount appropriated to the Senate, be used by the Voter
 86 Participation Task Force to procure research services to fulfill the task force's responsibilities
 87 described in Section 2 of this bill.

88 **Section 4. Effective date.**

89 If approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, this bill takes effect

90 upon approval by the governor, or the day following the constitutional time limit of Utah
91 Constitution, Article VII, Section 8, without the governor's signature, or in the case of a veto,
92 the date of veto override.

93 Section 5. **Repeal date.**

94 This bill is repealed on July 1, 2016.

Legislative Review Note
as of 1-23-15 9:38 AM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel