



LEGISLATURE

MINUTES

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 18, 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. Michael J. Petersen

Rep. Thomas W. Peterson
Rep. Val L. Peterson

Members Absent:

Rep. Sahara Hayes
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 Musselman called the meeting to order at 1:18 p.m.

MOTION: Sen. Thatcher moved to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2024, meeting. 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
Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Sen. D. Thatcher
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. D. Welton

2. Presidential Primary Elections

MOTION: Rep. Gricius moved to strike item 2 from the agenda and remove item 2's meeting materials from the committee's webpage.

Committee discussion followed.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Sen. Thatcher moved to strike the meeting materials that are objectionable as stated by some committee members during the discussion. The substitute motion failed with a vote of 1 - 12 - 3.

Yeas - 1

Sen. D. Thatcher

Nays - 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
Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. R. Winterton

Absent - 3

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

Chair Musselman returned to the original motion made by Rep. Gricius.

MOTION: The committee voted on the original motion from Rep. Gricius to strike item 2 from the agenda and remove item 2's meeting materials from the committee's webpage. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 1 - 3.

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
Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 1

Sen. D. Thatcher

Absent - 3

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

3. Population Data

[3 - Population Data Statutes \(OLRGC\)](#)[3 - Population Data, Sources and Uses, Population Data](#)

Megan Bolin, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, reviewed current statutes regarding the source and purpose of the population data in the state.

Mallory Bateman, Director of Demographic Research, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, discussed the challenges of obtaining accurate population estimates, and responded to questions from the committee.

Rep. Gricius spoke to the importance of accuracy of population estimates and indicated that she was looking for direction from the committee on how to proceed.

4. Inspection of Stormwater Retention Systems

Ross Ford discussed the impacts of recently enacted legislation related to the inspection of storm water retention systems and potential changes to address the applicability of regulations and tools to enforce compliance.

5. Draft Legislation, "Election Fundraising Amendments"

[5 - Draft Legislation, Election Fundraising Amendments, h0](#)

Sen. Kennedy discussed the provisions of draft legislation, "Election Fundraising Amendments," which would amend a provision prohibiting campaign contributions during session.

Madilyn Topik, Financial Disclosure Specialist, Lieutenant Governor's Office, spoke to the issue.

MOTION: Sen. Winteron moved to open a committee bill file that will be based upon "Election Fundraising Amendments." The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 6.

Yeas - 10

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. R. Winteron

Nays - 0Absent - 6

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher
Rep. D. Welton

John Dougall, State Auditor, spoke in support of the draft legislation.

6. Draft Legislation, "Services for Department of Defense Civilian Employees"[6 - Draft Legislation, Services for Department of Defense Civilian Employees, h3](#)

Sen. Millner discussed the background and provisions of draft legislation, "Services for Department of Defense Civilian Employees," which would address certain benefits for a United States Department of Defense employee and the employee's family.

Brian Garrett, Deputy Director, Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, spoke to the issue and responded to committee members' questions.

MOTION: Sen. Ipson moved to recommend draft legislation, "Services for Department of Defense Civilian Employees," as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 7.

Yeas - 9

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

Nays - 0Absent - 7

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher
Rep. D. Welton
Sen. R. Winteron

7. Draft Legislation, "Division of Purchasing and General Services Amendments"[7 - Draft Legislation, Division of Purchasing and General Services Amendments, h14](#)

Greg Gunn, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, and Windy Aphayrath, Director, Division of Purchasing, discussed provisions of draft legislation, "Division of Purchasing and General Services Amendments," and responded to questions from the committee.



MOTION: Rep. Christofferson moved to recommend draft legislation, "Division of Purchasing and General Services Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 7.

Yeas - 9

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 7

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. D. Thatcher
Rep. D. Welton
Sen. R. Winterton

8. Special District Board of Trustees Compensation

LeGrand Bitter, Executive Director, Utah Association of Special Districts, discussed challenges with the current statutory maximum compensation for special service district board of trustees members and potential changes to increase the maximum and allow for annual cost of living adjustments.

No action was taken on this item.

9. Election Records Amendments

Rep. Thurston provided an update regarding a committee bill file to address the availability of election documents for research purposes.

10. Other Items/Adjourn

In the absence of a quorum, Chair Musselman adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.