



State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee
63rd Montana Legislature

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SHERI SCURR, Lead Staff
GINGER ALDRICH, Staff Attorney
KRISTINA LIMING, Secretary

MINUTES LOG

State Administration and Veterans' Affairs
SJR 14 Subcommittee on Elections
January 17, 2014
Room 137, Capitol Building

Please note: These minutes provide abbreviated information about committee discussion, public testimony, action taken, and other activities. To the left of each section in these minutes is a time designation indicating the approximate amount of time in hours, minutes, and seconds that has elapsed since the start of the meeting. This time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <http://leg.mt.gov>. On the left-side menu of the home page, select *Committees*, then *Interim*. Once on the page for *Interim Committees*, scroll down to the appropriate committee. The written minutes summary, along with the audio and video recordings, are listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page.

Hard copies of the exhibits for this meeting are available upon request. Legislative Council policy requires a charge of 15 cents a page for copies of the document.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

REP. BRYCE BENNETT, Chair
REP. JOANNE BLYTON
REP. KATHY SWANSON

STAFF PRESENT

SHERI SCURR, Lead Staff
GINGER ALDRICH, Staff Attorney
KRISTINA LIMING, Secretary

ROUNDTABLE ATTENDEES:

Linda McCulloch, Secretary of State
Lisa Kimmel, Deputy of Elections, SOS

Nicole Thuotte, School Finance Specialist, Office of Public Instruction
Denise Williams (Ulberg), Montana Association of School Business Officials
Bob Vogel, Montana School Board's Association
Vicki Zeier, Missoula County Election Administrator
Regina Plettenberg, Association of Election Administrator's
Alec Hansen, Montana League of Cities and Towns
Shantil Siaperas, Legislative Liaison MACo
Mary Beveridge, General Public Member, Helena

AGENDA & VISITORS' LIST

Agenda, [Attachment #1](#).
Visitors' list, [Attachment #2](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION

00:00:06 Agenda Item #1: Call to Order and Roll Call

REP. BENNETT called the meeting to order.
Linda McCulloch provided a brief introduction and explanation.

AGENDA

00:05:00 Agenda Item #2: Overview of Decision Point Papers and Bill Drafts, Sherri Scurr

- a. Part 1 - General Provisions ([EXHIBIT 1](#))([EXHIBIT 2](#))
- b. Part 2 - School Elections ([EXHIBIT 3](#)) ([EXHIBIT 4](#))
- c. Part 3 - Title 7, Local Government ([EXHIBIT 5](#)) ([EXHIBIT 6](#))
- d. Part 4 - Other Special Purpose Districts ([EXHIBIT 7](#)) ([EXHIBIT 8](#))
- e. Reference Document - Special Area Elections ([EXHIBIT 9](#))

Committee Questions & Discussion

00:14:27 **Mr. Vogel** asked Ms. Scurr about Title 7, Title 13 and Title 20 as related to the Reference Document (EXHIBIT 9).

00:18:07 Agenda Item #3: Roundtable Discussion, Rep. Bryce Bennett.

00:19:40 Part 1 - General Provisions

Ms. Scurr offered a brief explanation regarding:
Section 1 - Elections for special purpose districts -- voter qualifications
Section 2 - Amending 13-1-101. Definitions

00:37:00 Section 1, Elections for special purpose districts.

02:02:03 PUBLIC COMMENT

02:02:14 **Ms. Thuotte, Ms. Plattenberg and Ms. Kimmett** expressed concerns regarding subsection (7) of Section 1 language.

02:10:37 LUNCH

02:45:30 **REP. BENNETT** called the meeting back to order.

Continuation of Round Table Discussion

02:45:52 Section 2, 13-1-101. Definitions

02:48:55 Section 3, 13-1-104. Times for holding general elections.

02:52:17 Section 4, 13-1-107. Times for holding primary elections

02:57:23 Section 5, 13-1-108. Notice of special elections.

03:24:40 Section 6, 13-1-401. Manner of Conducting general elections for political subdivisions required to hold annual elections.

03:26:00 Section 7, 13-10-202. Declaration for nomination -- term limitations.

03:31:33 PUBLIC COMMENT

03:31:51 **Ms. Siaperas** asked about a referendum in the upcoming discussion.

Part 2 - Title 20, School Elections

03:32:53 Section 1, 20-1-101. Definitions

03:36:24 Section 2, 20-3-202. Term, oath, and vacancy.

03:40:01 Section 3, 20-3-301. Election and term of office.

03:42:33 Section 5, 20-3-305. Candidate qualification, nomination, and withdrawal.

04:16:14 Section 6, 20-3-307. Qualification and oath

04:16:38 Section 7, 20-3-313. Election by acclamation -- notice.

04:17:25 Section 8, 20-3-321. Organization and officers.

04:17:37 Section 9, 20-3-341. Number of trustee positions in elementary districts -- transition

04:17:51 Section 10, 20-3-344. Nomination of candidates by petition in first-class elementary district.

04:18:15 Section 11, 20-9-428. Determination of approval or rejection of proposition at bond election.

04:19:33 Section 12, 20-9-471. Issuance of obligations -- authorization -- conditions.

04:20:02 Section 13-21, all just word insertion that were previously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

04:21:13 **Ed Bartlett**, Billings MT, representing Community Colleges in Montana Commented that the presidents in specific colleges have not yet come to a conclusion on the provisions provided for Section 13.

04:23:16 Section 22, 20-20-106. Poll hours.

04:34:42 Section 26, 20-20-311. Closure of registration
Section 27, 20-20-312. Listing of registered electors.
Section 28, 13-2-304. Late registration -- late changes -- nonapplicability for school elections

04:43:33 Section 30, 20-20-417. Request for county election administrator to conduct election.

PUBLIC COMMENT

04:44:45 **Ed Bartlett**, Billings MT, Community Colleges Proposed on behalf of the community colleges. Proposed that rather than have elections be discretionary, if a school district requests that a county election administrator conduct an election, they must accept responsibility.

04:46:57 **Tim Ravndal**, concerned citizen Expressed interest in how the election process is moving forward in MT, as well as the responsibility of voters to register before the election day.

04:48:14 Continued subcommittee discussion on Section 30.

04:54:13 **REP. SWANSON** moved to place LCele1 on the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs full committee agenda for February 6, 2014. Motion carried.

04:55:19 **Ms. Scurr** commented on moving the packet on to the full committee agenda, and to additionally incorporate the remaining parts (3 and 4), to the full committee for review.

04:56:40 Adjournment.