



MEMBERS:

SEN. ARLAN MEEKHOF, VICE CHAIRMAN

SEN. JACK BRANDENBURG

SEN. COLEMAN YOUNG II, MINORITY VICE CHAIR

THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS
SENATOR DAVE ROBERTSON
CHAIRMAN

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MINUTES

Senate Committee on Local Government and Elections

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Local Government and Elections was held on Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 100 of the Farnum Building.

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

Members present: Senators Robertson, Meekhof, Brandenburg, and Young

Members excused: None

Senator Robertson called the meeting to order.

Senator Robertson announced the agenda for the day:

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| HB 4992 Rep. Kowall | Elections; ballots; ballot instructions; revise to require placement in voting booth and include with absentee ballots. |
| HB 4653 Rep. Forlini | Elections; polling places; displaying the name of any elected or appointed official on materials at public polling locations; prohibit. |
| HB 4656 Rep. Forlini | Elections; campaign practices; prohibition for politicians' names to be attached to certain election-related materials sent to voters; provide for. |
| HB 5061 Rep. Jacobsen | Elections; absent voters; photograph identification; require when obtaining an absentee ballot, require ballot tracker program to be used by local governments, and require secretary of state to develop information displays indicating that ballot coaching in residential care facilities is prohibited. |
| HB 5062 Rep. Forlini | Elections; other; postelection audits and continuing election education programs; add to the Michigan election law and make other miscellaneous changes to the Michigan election law. |

- HB 5063 Rep. Tyler Elections; canvassing; approval by board of canvassers prior to circulating a petition; mandate.
- HB 5059 Rep. Tyler Campaign finance; statements and reports; ballot question and political party committee filing requirements; modify.
- HB 5119 Rep. Outman Elections; election officials; jurisdiction in which a precinct election inspector may serve; expand.

Senator Robertson moved to adopt the minutes from February 1, 2012, by unanimous consent; being no objection, the minutes were adopted.

Senator Robertson announced the next order of business would be House Bill 4992.

Adam Stefanick, on behalf of Representative Kowall, offered opening remarks.

The following individuals spoke in support of the bill:

- Bill Bullard, Oakland County Clerk
- Joe Rozell, Oakland County Elections Director
- Lauri Braid, Michigan Association of County Clerks
- Terry Bennett, Canton Township
- Chris Swope, MI Association of Municipal Clerks – Support with concerns

The following individuals submitted cards but did not wish to speak, their position in indicated below:

- Mary Hollinrake, MI Association of County Clerks, Kent County Clerk – Support
- Emily Dievendorf, Equality Michigan – Opposed

Being no further testimony Senator Meekhof made a motion to adopt the (S-2) version of House Bill 4992; support was offered by Senator Brandenburg.

Yeas: Senators Robertson, Meekhof, Brandenburg

Nays: Senator Young

Pass: None

The motion prevailed.

Senator Meekhof made a motion to report the (S-2) version of House Bill 4992 with recommendation; support was offered by Senator Brandenburg.

Yeas: Senators Robertson, Meekhof, Brandenburg

Nays: Senator Young

Pass: None

The motion prevailed.

Senator Robertson made a motion to recommend immediate effect for House Bill 4992; being no objection, the motion prevailed.

Senator Robertson announced the next order of business would be House Bills 5061-63.

The following individuals offered testimony, their position is listed below:

- Chris Hackbarth and Chris Thomas, office of MI Secretary of State — Support
- Tim Hughes, United Auto Workers, (HB 5061, 5063) – Opposed
- Terry Bennett, Canton Township, (HB 5061 – need to add Adult Foster Care and Group Homes)
- Anita R. Dawson, A. Philip Randolph Institute (HB 5061) – Opposed
- Jan Roncelli, Bloomfield Township (HB 5061) – Opposed In Part
- Tom Frazier, Michigan Townships Association – Support
- Judy Karandjeff, League of Women Voters (HB 5061) – Opposed, (HB 5062) – Support
- Chris Swope, MI Association of Municipal Clerks (HB 5061, 5062) – Support with concerns

The following individuals submitted cards on HB 5061-63, but did not wish to speak:

- Christina Kue, MI Nonprofit Association (HB 5061) – Opposed
- Michael Keller, AFL-CIO – Opposed
- Brittany Smith, MI AFL-CIO – Opposed
- Melanie McElroy, Common Cause Michigan – Opposed
- Shelli Weisberg, ACLU of Michigan (HB 5061) – Opposed
- Roberta Cannon, A. Philip Randolph Institute (HB 5061) – Opposed
- Bill Bullard, Oakland County Clerk (HB 5062) – Support
- Joe Rozell, Oakland County Elections Director (HB 5062) – Support
- Mary Hollinrake, MI Assn of County Clerks, Kent County Clerk (HB 5061-62) – Support

The Chair included those offering testimony on the remaining bills.

The following staff members offered testimony on behalf of the Legislators they represent:

- Suzanne Cascarilla, Representative Forlini (HB 4653 and 4656)
- Mike Compagnoni, Representative Jacobsen (HB 5061)
- Mike Marzano, Representative Outman (HB 5119)
- Will Wagner, Representative Tyler, available for questions on House Bills 5059 and 5063

Judy Karandjeff, representing the League of Women Voters spoke in support of HB 5119

The following individuals spoke in opposition to House Bill 4656:

- Jan Jorgensen, Harrison Township Clerk
- Jan Roncelli, Bloomfield Township Clerk
- Pam Mazich, Groveland Township Clerk / Oakland County Clerks
- Pauline Bennett, Oakland County Clerks
- Kim Rovinski, Oakland and Macomb County Clerks
- Sharon Tischler, Southfield Township Clerk
- Holly Brandt, Oakland County Clerks, Legislative Committee

The following submitted testimony cards on HB 4656 but did not wish to speak:

- Mary Hollinrake, MI Association of County Clerks, Kent County Clerk – Support
- Emily Dievendorf, Equality Michigan – Oppose

The following submitted testimony cards but did not wish to speak:

- Bill Bullard, Oakland County Clerk/ Register (HB 5653) – Oppose
- Emily Dievendorf, Equality Michigan (HB 5653) – Oppose
- Chris Swope, MI Association of Municipal Clerks (HB 5653 & 5119) – Support with concerns

Senator Robertson adjourned the committee without objection at 4:40 p.m.

Date Approved by Committee: May 17, 2012

**An audio recording of this committee meeting is available upon request for a minimal fee.