

Senate Elections Committee

Monday, March 20, 2006

3:00 p.m., Room 107, State Capitol

The following committee members were present:

WIGER, Chuck, Chair
FISHBACH, Michelle
HIGGINS, Linda
HOTTINGER, John
KOCH, Amy
LIMMER, Warren
MARTY, John
MARKO, Sharon
PARISEAU, Pat
SCHEID, Linda

Meeting was called to order at 3:12, a quorum was not present.

I. The committee considered S.F. 625: At large school board members election alle system (Koering, P.)

Susan Prosapio, Little Falls School Board, described the issues facing the Little Falls School District.

Senator Wiger called the quorum present at 3:14.

Susan Prosapio continued explaining the issues in the Little Falls School District.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Koch moved to pass S.F. 625.

Senator Fishbach called for a division vote.

MOTION CARRIED ON A VOTE OF 4-2

II. The committee considered S.F. 3387: Special Elections (Clark, T.)

Senator Clark explained the bill.

Randy Schreifels, Stearns County Auditor/Treasurer testified in support of the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Pariseau moved to amend S.F. 3387 as followed:

Delete section one

MOTION CARRIED

Committee discussion followed.

Bruce Kennedy from Roseville testified to consider rank voting.

Senator Higgins moved to pass S.F. 3387 as amended.

Committee discussion followed between Senator Pariseau and Senator Clark.

MOTION CARRIED

III. The committee considered S.F. 3297: Permitting a tenant to post campaign materials in the window of a residence (Berglin, L.)

Senator Berglin explained the bill.

Malcolm Bisson, a voter, testified in support of the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Jack Horner, Minnesota Multi-Housing Association, testified against the bill.

Committee discussion and questions followed.

Senator Higgins moved to pass S.F. 3297.

Committee discussion followed between Senator Fishbach and Jack Horner.

Senator Higgins renewed the motion to pass S.F. 3297.

MOTION CARRIED

IV. The committee considered S.F. 3157: Allowing an elected official access to a multiple unit dwelling unaccompanied by a candidate (Pappas, S.)

Senator Marty moved to pass the A-1 amendment.

Senator Pappas explained the bill.

Jack Horner, Minnesota Multi-Housing Association, testified against the bill.

Committee discussion and questions followed.

Senator Koch moved to amend S.F. 3157 as follows:

Page 1, line 13-14, delete "ballot question"

Senator Marko commented on the bill.

MOTION CARRIED

Senator Marty moved the A-2 amendment.

Committee discussion followed.

Peter Watson, Senate Counsel, suggested the following amendments:

Page 1, lines 11-12, delete new language and insert stricken language.

Page 1, line 14, after "candidate" insert "campaigning within the territory for which the candidate has filled"

Page 1, line 12, after "filed" insert "under chapter 10A or 211A"

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Marty moved to pass the A-2 amendment as amended.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Scheid moved to pass S.F. 3157 as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

V. The committee considered S.F. 3303: Relating to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Voter Act (Hann, D.)

Senator Hann explained the bill.

Burt Black, Office of the Secretary of State, further explained the bill and testified in support.

Committee discussion and questions of the testifier followed.

Senator Fishbach moved to pass S.F. 3303.

MOTION CARRIED

VI. The committee considered S.F. 3038: Prohibiting voter challenges based on mailings by parties (Higgins, L.)

Senator Higgins explained the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Mahmoud El-Kati, Professor at Macalester College, testified in support of the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State, testified against the bill.

Cheryl Morgan Spencer, Minneapolis Urban League, testified in support of the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Hottinger moved to pass S.F. 3038 and recommend it to the Crime Prevention and Public Safety Committee.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Wiger comments that there is a motion on the table.

MOTION CARRIED

VII. The committee considered S.F. 3040: Re-authorizing the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Higgins, L.)

Senator Higgins re-introduced Mahmoud El-Kati, Professor at Macalester College.

Mahmoud El-Kati discussed the resolution and its importance to the community.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Higgins moved to pass S.F. 3040 to the Rules Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

VIII. The committee considered S.F. 3039: Prohibiting deceptive practices regarding election time, place, etc.

Senator Higgins explained the bill.

Mahmoud El-Kati, Professor at Macalester Collage, testified in support of the bill.

Beth Fraser, Voting Rights Coalition, testified in support of the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Higgins moved to pass S.F. 3039 to the Crime Prevention Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

IX/X. The committee considered S.F. 3360: Regulation interpreter services (Wiger, C.) and S.F. 3361: Eliminating the requirement to provide interpreter assistance to deaf voters (Wiger, C.)

Senator Wiger explained the bill.

Cuong Nguyen, Minnesota Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, testified in support of the bill.

Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State, testified against the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Hottinger questioned the necessity of Page 1, line 11.

Mary Hartnett, Minnesota Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, testified against the bill and further explained the issues with it.

Bert Black suggested deleting "written" and "certified mail" from Page 1, line 10 and changing the number of days on Page 1, lines 11-12.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Wiger moved to lay the bills on the table and revisit it in approximately 45 minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

XI. The committee considered S.F. 3212: Increasing public's right to know how lobbyist are influencing the legislative process (Higgins, L.)

Senator Higgins explained the bill.

Committee discussion and questions followed.

Senator Higgins continued to explain the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Dominic Sposeto, Minnesota Governmental Relations Council, testified against the bill.

Diane Koebele, Minnesota Governmental Relations Council, testified against the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Glenn Dorfman, Minnesota Association of Realtors, testified against the bill.

Senator Hottinger comments on the testimony.

Mike Franklin, Chamber of Commerce, testified against the bill and discussed concerns of the section 22 repealer.

Senator Hottinger comments on the testimony.

Brandon Rettke, Education Minnesota, testified against the bill.

Senator Scheid moved to amend S.F. 3212 as follows:

Delete Section 22

Senator Higgins opposes the amendment.

Senator Pariseau supports the amendment.

MOTION CARRIED

Senator Hottinger moved to pass SCS3212A-1 after it was handed out to the committee.

Committee discussion followed

MOTION CARRIED

Peter Watson, Senate Counsel, suggested on page 6, line 7 to insert "conduit fund" after "fund".

Senator Higgins moved to amend S.F. 3212 as followed:

Page 6, line 7 to insert "conduit fund" after "fund"

MOTION CARRIED

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Higgins moved to pass S.F. 3212 as amended.

Senator Marty requested a roll call vote.

Yes: HIGGINS	No: FISHBACH
HOTTINGER	LIMMER
KOCH	PARISEAU
MARTY	
MARKO	
SCHEID	
WIGER	

6-3 MOTION IS CARRIED

XII. The committee considered S.F. 2476: Public's right to know (Marty, J.)

Senator Marty explained the bill.

Senator Wiger commented.

Senator Hottinger moved SCS2476A-1.

MOTION CARRIED

Senator Mary moved to pass S.F. 2476 as amended.

Committee discussion and questions followed.

Senator Limmer requested a roll call vote

Yes: HIGGINS	No: FISHBACH
HOTTINGER	KOCH
MARTY	LIMMER
MARKO	PARISEAU
WIGER	SCHEID

5-5 MOTION DID NOT PREVAIL

XIII. The committee considered S.F. 1752: Restoring the right to vote for certain convicted felons (Hottinger, J)

Senator Hottinger explained the bill.

Senator Hottinger moved SCS1752A-1.

MOTION CARRIED

Tom Johnson, President of the Minnesota Council on Crime and Justice, testified in support of the bill.

Chris Uggen, Professor at the University of Minnesota, testified in support of the bill.

Committee discussion and questions followed.

Senator Hottinger moved to pass S.F. 1752 as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

XIV. The committee considered S.F. 2976: Clarifying documents acceptable to prove residence (Hottinger, J)

Senator Hottinger explained the bill.

Regal Johnson, a student at the University of Minnesota, testified in support of the bill.

Teresa Nelson, ACLU of Minnesota, testified in support of the bill.

Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State, testified against the bill.

Committee discussion and questions followed.

Patty O'Connor, Taxpayer Services, testified in support of the bill.

Beth Fraser, Voting Rights Coalition, testified in support of the bill.

Joe Day, American Indian Affairs Council, testified in support of the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Bert Black commented on identity versus residency.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Hottinger moved to pass S.F. 2976

MOTION CARRIED

XV. The committee considered S.F. 3252: Facilitation registering to vote and votin (Higgins, L.)

Senator Higgins explained the bill and moved SCS325.

MOTION CARRIED

Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State, testified against the bill.

Senator Fishbach questioned a portion of the bill.

Beth Fraser, Voting Rights Coalition, clarified the question.

Committee discussion followed.

Josh Winters, Public Policy Associate for the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, testified in support of the bill.

Kate Suchomel, Program Director for the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, testified in support of the bill.

Dr. Steven France testified in support of the bill.

Committee discussion followed

Karen Inman, Minnesota ACORN, testified in support of the bill.

Peter Watson, Senate Counsel, suggested the following amendment:

Page 1, line 27, insert before the period "the institution must make a request form available to all students"

Senator Fishbach moved to pass the amendment.

MOTION CARRIED

Senator Higgins moved to pass S.F. 3252 as amended.

Senator Limmer requested a roll call vote.

Yes: HIGGINS	No: FISHBACH
HOTTINGER	KOCH
MARKO	LIMMER
SCHEID	PARISEAU
WIGER	

Absent: MARTY

5-4 MOTION CARRIED

XVI. The committee considered S.F. 3150: Providing that the official website of the Office of the Secretary of State may link to websites of candidates (Koch, A.)

Senator Koch explained the bill.

Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State, supported the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Jeff Sigurdson, Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, suggested amendments to Page Line 15 and Page 2, Line 23.

Senator Hottinger offered SCS3150 on behalf of Senator Higgins.

Senator Koch responded positively about the amendment

MOTION CARRIED

Cheryl Morgan Spencer, Minneapolis Urban League, questioned the monitoring of the websites linked.

Bert Black responded.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Koch moved to pass S.F. 3150.

MOTION CARRIED

XVII. The committee discussed S.F. 3150: Elections campaign finance provisions modifications (Marko, S.)

Senator Marko moved SCS3150A-1 that deleted sections 1 and 3.

Jeff Sigurdson, Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, testified in support of the bill.

Senator Marko moved to pass S.F. 3150 as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

XVIII. The committee revisited S.F.3360 and S.F 3361: Regulation interpreter services and eliminating the requirement to provide interpreter assistance to deaf voters. (Wiger, C.)

Senator Wiger offered the A-1 amendment.

Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State, explained the amendment.

Senator Wiger moved to pass SCS3360A-1.

MOTION CARRIED

Committee discussion followed.

Peter Watson, Senate Counsel, suggested the following amendment:

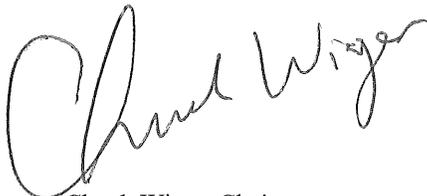
Merge section 1 of S.F. 3361 as amended into S.F. 3360, re-number the bill and internal reference.

Senator Wiger moved to pass the amendment suggested.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was taped. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Senator Chuck Wiger, Chair
Senate Elections Committee



Gretchen Walczak, Legislative Assistant
Senate Elections Committee

Senate Elections Committee

Chair: Senator Chuck Wiger

Monday, March 20, 2006

Room 107, Capitol

3:00 p.m.

Agenda

- I. S.F. 625-Koering: ISD #482; at large school board members election alley system
 - a. Susan Prosapio, Little Falls School Board
- II. S.F. 3387-Clark: Special elections
 - a. Randy Schreifels, Stearns County Auditor/Treasurer
- III. S.F. 3297-Berglin: Permitting a tenant to post campaign material in the window of a residence
 - a. Malcolm Bisson
 - b. Jack Horner, MN Multi Housing Association
- IV. S.F. 3157-Pappas: Allowing an elected official access to multiple unit dwellings unaccompanied by a candidate
 - a. Jack Horner, MN Multi Housing Association
- V. S.F. 3303-Hann: Relating to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Voter Act
 - a. Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State
- VI. S.F. 3038-Higgins: Prohibiting voter challenges based on mailings by parties
 - a. Professor Mahmoud El-Kati
 - b. Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State
 - c. Cheryl Morgan Spencer, Minneapolis Urban League
- VII. S.F. 3040-Higgins: Re-authorize the Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - a. Professor Mahmoud El-Kati
- VIII. S.F. 3039-Higgins: Prohibiting deceptive practices regarding election time, place, etc.
 - a. Professor Mahmoud El-Kati
 - b. Beth Fraser, Voting Rights Coalition
- IX. S.F. 3360-Wiger: regulating interpreter services
 - a. Cuong Nguyen, MN Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - b. Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State
 - c. Mary Hartnett, MN Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

- X. S.F. 3361-Wiger: eliminating the requirement to provide interpreter assistance to deaf voters
 - a. Mary Hartnett, MN Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - b. Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State

- XI. S.F. 3212-Higgins: Increasing public's right to know how lobbyists are influencing the legislative process
 - a. Dominic Sposeto, MN Governmental Relations Council
 - b. Diane Koebele, MN Governmental Relations Council
 - c. Glenn Dorfman, Mn Assn of Realtors
 - d. Mike Franklin, Chamber of Commerce
 - e. Brandon Rettke, Education Minnesota

- XII. S.F. 2476-Marty: Public's right to know

- XIII. S.F. 1752-Hottinger: Restoring the right to vote for certain convicted felons
 - a. Tom Johnson, President, MN Council on Crime and Justice
 - b. Professor Chris Uggen, University of Minnesota

- XIV. S.F. 2976-Hottinger: Clarifying documents acceptable to prove residence
 - a. Regal Johnson, student
 - b. Teresa Nelson, ACLU of Minnesota
 - c. Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State
 - d. Joe Day, American Indian Affairs Council
 - e. Patty O'Connor, Taxpayer Services
 - f. Beth Fraser, Voting Rights Coalition

- XV. S.F. 3252-Higgins: Facilitating registering to vote and voting
 - a. Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State
 - b. Kate Suchomel, Program Director, MN Public Interest Research Group
 - c. Marcia Avner, Public Policy Director, MN Council of Nonprofits
 - d. Josh Winters, Public Policy Associate, MN Council of Nonprofits
 - e. Karen Inman, MN ACORN

- XVI. S.F. 3150-Koch: Providing that the official Web site of the office of the secretary of state may link to Web sites of candidates
 - a. Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State
 - b. Jeff Sigurdson, Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

- XVII. S.F. 3304-Marko: Elections campaign finance provisions modifications
 - a. Jeff Sigurdson, Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

March 20, 2006
Attendance

Committee Members	Present
Senator Chuck Wiger, Chair	Present
Senator Michelle Fischbach	Present
Senator Linda Higgins	Present
Senator John Hottinger	Present
Senator Amy Koch	Present
Senator Warren Limmer	Present
Senator Sharon Marko	Present
Senator John Marty	Present
Senator Pat Pariseau	Present
Senator Linda Scheid	Present

Senate Elections Committee

Thank you for your participation!
Please sign in!

Name	Organization	Address	Phone	Testifying Bill #
Senate Paul Koering	Senate		6-4875	SF625
SUSAN PROSAPPO	LITTLE FALLS SCHOOL BOARD		320-632-4341	
BERT BLACK	SEC. OF STATE	180 SOB		
DAVID HANN	STATE SENATE	6-27 SOB	6-1749	SF3203
Diane Kuehl	M6RC		651-437-0560	3212
Dominic Sposeto	M6RC		952-253-6075	
Chris Uggren				
Regal/Johnson		524 8th St SE	612 868-6588	2976
TERESA NELSON	ACLU-MN	450 NSM/DICHTER ST PAUL	651-645-4097	2976
Beth Fraser	Voting Rights Coalition	1080 Dayton Ave St. Paul MN	651-276-9929	2976
Kate Suohomel	MPIRG	3117 Colfax Ave S Mpls, MN 55408	612 859 6802	3252
Josh Winters	MN Council of Nonprofits	2314 University Ave St. Paul, MN 55114	651-642-1904	3252
Brandon Rettke	Education Minnesota	41 Sherburne Ave, St. Paul, MN 55103	651-292-4838	3212
Jed Sigurdson	Campaign Finance Panel		6-1720	

Date: ~~March 8, 2006~~

Mar. 20, 2006