

**Senate Elections Committee**

Monday, March 22, 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 3:17, a quorum was present.

**I. The committee considered S.F. 58: Reducing the size of the Legislature  
(Cohen, R.)**

Senator Cohen explained the bill.

Senator Scheid moved to amend S.F. 58 as follows:

Page 2, line 1, delete "2007" and add "2013"

**MOTION CARRIED**

Committee discussion followed

Senator Scheid moved to pass S.F. 58.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**II. The committee considered S.F. 425: Senate staggered terms (Michel, G.)**

Senator Michel explained the bill.

David Schultz, Professor at Hamline University, testified in support of the bill.

Mike Franklin, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce testified in support of the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Scheid questioned the effective date of the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Scheid moved to amend S.F. 425 as follows:

Page 2, line 1, delete "2010" and add "2012"

**MOTION CARRIED**

Senator Hottinger moved to pass S.F. 425 as amended.

Senator Wiger commented that he had a similar bill but yielded it to Senator Michel.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**III. The committee considered S.F. 2743: Criteria for voting systems (Pariseau, P.)**

Senator Pariseau explained the bill.

Bert Black, from the office of the Secretary of State, testified in support of the bill and offered further explanation of the amendments.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Pariseau moved SCS2743A-1

Committee discussion followed.

Mark Halvorson, from Citizens for Elections Integrity Minnesota, explained his organization and discussed attempts at possible solutions.

Committee discussion followed.

Mai Thor, from the Disability Law Center, testified on the groups commitment to appropriate equipment.

Committee discussion followed.

Kevin Corbid, Washington County, testified in support of SCS2743A-1.

Committee discussion followed.

Bert Black explained in detail about the task force for this bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Wiger questioned if there was an expiration date for the group.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Marty moved to amend S.F. 2743 as followed:

Page 1, line 3, delete "coding"

Page 1, line 32, "expires April 2007"

**MOTION CARRIED**

Senator Pariseau moved to pass SCS2743A-1 as amended.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Senator Pariseau moved to pass S.F. 2743 as amended.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**IV. The committee considered S.F. 3364: Moving the state primary from September to August (Higgins, L.)**

Senator Higgins explained the bill and SCS3364A-1.

Senator Higgins moved to pass SCS3364A-1.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Bert Black testified in support of the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Higgins moved to pass S.F. 3364 as amended.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**V. The committee considered S.F. 3351: Contribution limits to judicial candidates (Hottinger, J.)**

Senator Hottinger explained the bill.

Senator Hottinger moved to table S.F. 3351.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**VI. The committee considered S.F. 2948: Modifying the Minnesota Voter's Bill of Rights (Pariseau, P.)**

Senator Pariseau explained the bill and moved to pass S.F. 2948.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Hottinger moved to amend S.F. 2948 as follows:

Page 2, line 35, delete "immediate" and add "timely"

**MOTION CARRIED**

Committee discussion followed.

Bert Black, from the Office of the Secretary of State, answered questions from the committee about the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Peter Watson, Senate Counsel, explained that some of the language is explained in S.F. 1317.

Committee discussion followed

Tom Ferber, from the Municipal Clerks & Finance Officers Association, testified against portions of the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Pariseau moved to amend S.F. 2948 as follows:

Page 3, line 11, delete "announce" and "immediately"

**MOTION CARRIED**

Senator Pariseau moved to pass S.F. 2948 as amended.

Committee discussion followed.

**MOTION DID NOT PREVAIL**

**VII. The committee considered S.F. 1317: Governing certain conduct in or near polling places (Pariseau, P.)**

Senator Pariseau explained the bill.

Senator Scheid questioned some of the language of the bill.

Bert Black, the Office of the Secretary of State, clarified the questions.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Pariseau moved to pass S.F. 1317.

Committee discussion followed.

Beth Fraser, from the Voting Rights Coalition, discussed how it was defeated last year and that the bill is better this year, but they still are not happy with it.

Committee discussion followed.

Tom Ferber, from the Municipal Clerks & Finance Officers Association, testified about his concerns with page 1, line 17.

Senator Pariseau moved to amend S.F. 1317 as follows:

Page 1, line 17, delete.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Committee discussion followed with comments from Bert Black and Peter Watson.

Senator Pariseau moved to pass S.F. 1317 as amended.

**MOTION DID NOT PREVAIL**

**VIII. The committee considered S.F. 923: Requiring proof of citizenship as part of registration; requiring voters to provide photo identification. (Bachmann, M.)**

Senator Bachmann explained the bill.

Pat Igo, Elections Judge at Macalaster Presbyterian Church, testified in support of the bill.

Senator Bachmann explained more of the bill.

Norman Monroe, Minnesota Immigration Reform Group, testified in support of the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Mike McCarthy, Office of the Secretary of State, answered questions about the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Marcia Avner, Public Policy Director for the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, testified in against the bill.

Lona Stevens, Public Policy and Legislative Coordinator of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, testified against the bill.

Wendy McNiff, a voter, testified against the bill.

Beth Fraser, from the Voting Rights Coalition, testified against the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

The committee asked more questions of Beth Fraser.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Limmer asked for clarification on "oath" of Peter Watson, Senate Counsel.

Committee discussion followed.

Mike McCarthy gives further testimony on the bill.

Senator Limmer requested a roll call vote.

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

Absent: FISHBACH

**3-6 MOTION IS DEFEATED**

**IX. The committee considered IX S.F. 2952: Making permanent certain Help America Vote Act rules adopted by the Office of the Secretary of State (Pariseau, P)**

Senator Pariseau explained the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State, clarified the rule changes.

Committee discussion followed.

Lucy Botzek, Minnesota Association of County Officers, testified in support of the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

The committee questioned Lucy Botzek and Bert Black more on the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Hottinger moved to lay S.F. 2952 on the table.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**X. The committee considered S.F. 2949: Providing for consistency in polling place locations (Pariseau, P.)**

Senator Pariseau explained the bill and offered the A-1 amendment.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Kent Sulem, Minnesota Association of Townships, testified about concerns with some of the language of the bill.

Peter Watson, Senate Counsel, responded to a language question.

Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State, furthered that explanation.

Committee discussion followed.

Tom Deans, Minnesota School Board Association, testified against the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Debra Mangen, City Clerk for Edina, testified against the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Marty moved to lay the bill on the table.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**XI. The committee considered S.F. 827: Quarterly election days (Pariseau, P.)**

Senator Pariseau offered the A-5 amendment.

Committee discussion followed.

Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State, explained Page 1, line 14.

Senator Higgins moved to amend S.F. 827 as follows:

Page 1, line 14, add "the second Tuesday in August"  
before the period.

Committee discussion followed.

Senator Higgins withdrew the motion.

Committee discussion followed.

Tom Deans, Minnesota School Board Association, testified against the bill.

Bert Black questioned Tom Deans.

Committee discussion followed.

Ann Higgins, League of Minnesota Cities, testified against the bill.

Committee discussion followed.

Kent Sulem, Minnesota Association of Townships, testified against the bill.

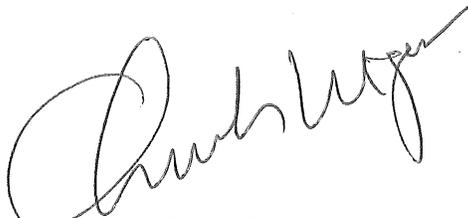
Senator Hottinger moved to lay the bill over.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Senator Wiger made closing remarks.

The meeting was taped. The meeting adjourned at 6:33

Respectfully submitted,



Senator Chuck Wiger, Chair  
*Senate Elections Committee*



Gretchen Walczak, Legislative Assistant  
*Senate Elections Committee*

# Senate Elections Committee

**Chair: Senator Chuck Wiger**

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

Room 107, Capitol

3:00 p.m.

## Agenda

- I. S.F. 58-Cohen: Reducing the size of the Legislature
- II. S.F. 425-Michel: Senate staggered terms
  - a. David Schultz, Professor, Hamline University
  - b. Mike Franklin, MN Chamber of Commerce
- III. S.F. 2743-Pariseau: Criteria for voting systems
  - a. Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State
  - b. Mark Halvorson, Citizens for Election Integrity MN
  - c. Mai Thor, Disability Law Center
  - d. Kevin Corbid, Washington County
- IV. S.F. 3364-Higgins: Moving the state primary from September to August
  - a. Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State
- V. S.F. 3351-Hottinger: Contribution limits to judicial candidates
- VI. S.F. 2948-Pariseau: Modifying the Minnesota Voter's Bill of Rights
  - a. Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State
  - b. Tom Ferber, Municipal Clerks & Finance Officers Association
- VII. S.F. 1317-Pariseau: Governing certain conduct in or near polling places
  - a. Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State
  - b. Beth Fraser, Voting Rights Coalition
  - c. Tom Ferber, Municipal Clerks & Finance Officers Association
- VIII. S.F. 923-Bachmann: Requiring proof of citizenship as part of registration; requiring voters to provide photo identification
  - a. Pat Igo, Election Judge, Macalaster Presbyterian Church
  - b. Norman Monroe, MN Immigration Reform Group
  - c. Mike McCarthy, Office of the Secretary of State
  - d. Marcia Avner, Public Policy Director, MN Council of Nonprofits
  - e. Lonna Stevens, Public Policy and Legislative Coordinator, MN Coalition for Battered Women
  - f. Wendy McNiff, voter
  - g. Beth Fraser, Voting Rights Coalition

- IX. S.F. 2952-Pariseau: Making permanent certain Help America Vote Act rules adopted by the Office of the Secretary of State
  - a. Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State
  - b. Lucy Botzek, MN Association of County Officers
  
- X. S.F. 2949-Pariseau: Providing for consistency in polling place locations
  - a. Kent Sulem, MN Association of Townships
  - b. Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State
  - c. Tom Deans, MN School Boards Association
  - d. Debra Mangen, City of Edina
  
- XI. S.F. 827-Pariseau: Quarterly election days
  - a. Bert Black, Office of the Secretary of State
  - b. Tom Deans, MN School Boards Association
  - c. Ann Higgins, League of MN Cities
  - d. Kent Sulem, MN Association of Townships

## March 22, 2006 Attendance

| <b>Committee Members</b>   | <b>Present</b> |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| 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        |
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