

# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES, REDISTRICTING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

February 14, 2001  
1:30 PM

Hearing Room D  
Tapes 19 - 20

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rep. Carl Wilson, Chair  
Rep. Dan Doyle, Vice-Chair  
Rep. Dan Gardner  
Rep. Bill Garrard  
Rep. Steve March  
Rep. Joanne Verger  
Rep. Cheryl Walker

**EXCUSED MEMBERS:** Rep. Richard Devlin, Vice-Chair  
Rep. Bruce Starr

**STAFF PRESENT:** Cara Filsinger, Committee Administrator  
Jennifer Goodman, Committee Assistant

**MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:** HB 2460 – WORK SESSION  
WORK SESSION TO INTRODUCE COMMITTEE BILLS  
HB 2802 – PUBLIC HEARING  
HB 2581 – PUBLIC HEARING

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These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

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<u>TAPE/#</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<u>TAPE 19, A</u>		
004	Chair Wilson	Calls meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.
<u>HB 2460 – WORK SESSION</u>		
013	Rep. Doyle	<b>MOTION: Moves HB 2460 to the floor WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION as to passage and BE REFERRED to the committee on Judiciary.</b>
015		<b>VOTE: 7-0</b> <b>EXCUSED: 2 - Devlin, Starr</b> <b>Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.</b>
	Chair Wilson	
022	Chair Wilson	Closes work session on HB 2460 and opens a work session on committee bills.
<u>WORK SESSION</u>		
023	Rep. Gardner	<b>MOTION: Moves LC 2327 BE INTRODUCED as a committee bill.</b>
025		<b>VOTE: 7-0</b> <b>EXCUSED: 2 – Devlin, Starr</b> <b>Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.</b>
	Chair Wilson	
032	Chair Wilson	Closes work session on LC 2327 and opens a public hearing on HB 2802.
<u>HB 2802 – PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
034	Bill Bradbury	Secretary of State. Submits and testifies from <b>(EXHIBIT A)</b> . Indicates that there will be amendments coming forth.
069	Al Davidson	Marion County Clerk. Supports the amendments to this bill.

		Wants a statewide database that is adequately funded. Adds that this is not to be a rushed implementation and it must work at the county level.
137	Senator Kate Brown	District 7. Supports HB 2802. States that voters must have faith in the voting process. Adds that a statewide database will help avoid lawsuits and prevent problems.
171	Glen Newkirk	President of Info Century Services. Submits and testifies from <b>(EXHIBIT B)</b> in support of HB 2802. Wants to avoid duplicate registration and to win voter confidence. Believes that there should be local control over the system. Adds that the system needs to be carefully planned out regarding both the cost and the time limit for implementation.
278	Rep. March	Asks Mr. Newkirk to compare Oregon to other states regarding duplicate voting.
285	Newkirk	Responds that Oregon has one of the cleanest voting roles in the country. Discusses other state's centralized voting registration.
321	Rep. Garrard	Asks for an estimate of the cost and time.
325	Newkirk	Responds with an estimate of \$6.5 – 7 million for the system to be created. Gives a completion year of 2004.
352	Rep. Devlin	Expresses concern regarding the budget for this bill. Asks if there are any plans for creatively financing this system.
375	Bradbury	Explains that he is looking into federal money.
406	Rep. Devlin	Asks if there are matching requirements.
410	Bradbury	Responds that there has been discussion in Washington, D.C. regarding a state match.
<b>TAPE 20, A</b>		
001	Rep. Devlin	Asks if it would be financed over a two-biennium period.
005	Bradbury	Responds that he is concerned over doing it over two bienniums.
015	Rep. Walker	Asks if there is a plan to receive information about voters from vital statistics.
027	Bradbury	Responds that it is not specifically in this plan. States that it could be possible as an add-on at a later date.
035	Rep. Walker	Asks if it would be cheaper to deal with vital statistics from the inception of this system.
041	Davidson	Believes that it would be a good idea to consider this in the planning stage.
051	Chair Wilson	Asks if he has any recommendations as to a basic model. Requests an explanation of the process.
058	Newkirk	Explains that the most important aspect is defining the base level of functionality that creates the basic technical infrastructure. Adds that the budget and time frame have to be considered the entire time of planning. Continues describing the process of planning.
081	Chair Wilson	Asks who is responsible for overseeing the five precepts in <b>(EXHIBIT B)</b> .
093	Bradbury	Responds that he would be responsible along with the administrators.
109	Dawn Phillips	Staff for Former Speaker Lynn Snodgrass. Submits and testifies from <b>(EXHIBIT C)</b> .
159	Fred Neal	Oregon Elections Division. Submits and testifies on proposed amendments <b>(EXHIBIT D)</b> .
205	Neel Pender	Democratic Party of Oregon. Submits <b>(EXHIBIT E)</b> and testifies in support of HB 2802. Explains that voter confidence is worth the money spent.

270	Daryl Howard	Oregon Republican Party. Testifies in support of HB 2802. Believes that something needs to be done right now regarding voter registration.
292	Kappy Eaton	League of Women Voters. Submits and testifies from <b>(EXHIBIT F)</b> . Supports HB 2802 and the amendments put forth by the Secretary of State's office. Expresses some trepidation over the funding and hopes it can be approved for this project.
330	Jason Williams	Taxpayers Association of Oregon. Submits and testifies in support of HB 2802 from <b>(EXHIBIT G)</b> .
369	Rep. Verger	Asks if he believes this is a high priority with taxpayers.
372	Williams	Responds yes because it preserves the integrity of the whole system.
386	Steve Lanning	Oregon AFL-CIO. Submits and testifies from <b>(EXHIBIT H)</b> .
<b>TAPE 19, B</b>		
001	Fred Huette	Sunlight Data. Describes his business and how it relates to the project of the database for voter registration. Explains the concept of formats for the statewide registration. Suggest that in order to save money, the project could start out as a real time update system and eventually evolve into an automatic update system. Discusses the vote by mail system.
060	Chair Wilson	Asks how his ideas are being received.
061	Huette	Responds that there has been only a little interest.
074	Rep. Garrard	Asks if the software is compatible with Newkirk's idea of the core for a final product.
078	Huette	Responds that the data formats are similar and describes the similarities.
102	Paul Snider	Association of Oregon Counties. Testifies that they are neutral at this time regarding HB 2802. Expresses concerned with the ongoing cost of this project.
132	Rep. Devlin	Asks if there will be any savings by revising the system.
140	Snider	Responds in the affirmative.
143	Chair Wilson	Asks about the on going cost and cost offsets.
150	Newkirk	Responds that the annual maintenance costs would be approximately \$1.5 million. Explains that this is based upon the percentage of 15-20% of initial cost that the systems information industry uses. Explains that offsets are difficult to determine with the information he has at this time. Adds however, that the voter registration roles would be cleaner and therefore smaller cutting on costs to print and mail pamphlets. Explains that there may also be savings in non-litigation on the double majority issue.
183	Chair Wilson	Asks if he has any concerns regarding the large number of registration transactions as the election nears.
189	Newkirk	Responds in the affirmative. Explains that by defining early on the needs for the capability to deal with large numbers that it is a great advantage.
208	Chair Wilson	Asks if vote by mail would have any affect on this system.
209	Newkirk	Suggests that it may add a level of complexity and insistence on accuracy.
226	Chair Wilson	States that he will be bringing this bill back.
232	Chair Wilson	Closes the public hearing on HB 2802 and opens a public hearing on HB 2581.
235	Rep. Verger	Submits <b>(EXHIBIT I)</b> to the committee.

243	Lynn Rosick	State Elections Division. Submits and testifies from <b>(EXHIBIT J)</b> .
<b>TAPE 20, B</b>		
001	Rosick	Continues reviewing <b>(EXHIBIT J)</b> .
087	Rep. Garrard	Asks if there is any assurance to someone, who mails a ballot, in that it was received by the deadline.
095	Rosick	Responds that she has heard of no problems with the mail. Suggests that the public can call the county and ask if it was received. States that her submission <b>(EXHIBIT J)</b> relates only to walk in voters.
117	Rep. Gardner	Asks how many ballots arrive late.
120	Rosick	Responds that she does not have an answer. Explains that if the ballot is dropped at any county box, it will be counted.
132	Vicki Ervin	Director of Elections in Multnomah County. Responds that the late ballots have not been counted but she would guess less than 2000.
151	Rep. Gardner	Asks if anyone keeps a count of the late ballots in any of the counties.
153	Rosick	Responds that they do not keep the ballots. Adds that upon request she would ask the counties to estimate.
160	Rep. Gardner	Suggests that this information could be used as a motivational tool for people to vote on time.
167	Rep. Devlin	States that the counties do have to retain the ballots.
173	Rep. Verger	Asks where the polling place is located.
176	Rosick	Responds that it is where ballots are issued.
186	Rep. Starr	Asks why there was the deletion of five words on page 1 line 10.
191	Rosick	Explains that a person can vote as soon as they arrive in the state of Oregon.
217	Rep. Starr	Asks if there is a 20-day cut off to register.
219	Rosick	Explains that there is a cut-off of over 20 days before the election.
231	Chair Wilson	Refers to section one in <b>(EXHIBIT J)</b> . Asks if one can register prior to the election if they will be 18 years of age on that election day.
235	Rosick	Responds in the affirmative. Explains that if you will be 18 by election day you can register beforehand.
250	Chair Wilson	States that he would like to bring this bill back on Friday. Closes the public hearing on HB 2581. Adjourns the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Jennifer Goodman,  
Committee Assistant

Cara Filsinger,  
Committee Administrator

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

- A – HB 2802, written testimony, Bill Bradbury, 1 p.**
- B – HB 2802, written testimony, Glen Newkirk, 6 pp.**
- C – HB 2802, written testimony, Dawn Phillips, 1 p.**

- D – HB 2802, proposed amendments, Fred Neal, 2 pp.**
- E – HB 2802, written testimony, Neel Pender, 3 pp.**
- F – HB 2802, written testimony, Kappy Eaton, 1 p.**
- G – HB 2802, written testimony, Jason Williams 1 p.**
- H – HB 2802, written testimony, Steve Lanning, 1 p.**
- I – HB 2802, written testimony, Rep. Joanne Verger, 1 p.**
- J – HB 2581, written testimony, Lynn Rosick, 3 pp.**