

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES, REDISTRICTING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

April 25, 2001
1:30 PM

Hearing Room D
Tapes 92 - 94

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Rep. Carl Wilson, Chair**
 Rep. Richard Devlin, Vice-Chair
 Rep. Dan Doyle, Vice-Chair
 Rep. Dan Gardner
 Rep. Bill Garrard
 Rep. Steve March
 Rep. Bruce Starr
 Rep. Joanne Verger
 Rep. Cherryl Walker

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

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: **Redistricting - Public Hearing**
 HCR 12 - Public Hearing and Work Session
 HB 3742 - Public Hearing
 HJR 16 - Work Session
 HB 3577 - Public Hearing
 HB 3313 - Work Session
 HB 2087 - Work Session
 HB 2706 - Work Session
 HB 2969 - Public Hearing

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.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 92, A		
004	Chair Wilson	Calls the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and opens a public hearing on redistricting.
<u>REDISTRICTING – PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
007	Chair Wilson	Explains the redistricting process for giving testimony.
011	Cara Filsinger	Committee Administrator. Submits (EXHIBITS A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, and L) .
013	Chair Wilson	Closes the public hearing on redistricting and opens a public hearing on HCR 12.
<u>HCR 12 – PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
018	Representative Cherryl Walker	House District 51. Testifies in support of HCR 12. Discusses the 150 th anniversary of Jacksonville. Introduces Art Lumley.
028	Art Lumley	Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce. Discusses events that have taken place in Jacksonville. Reads a letter from Jeffrey Levin, Events Director for American Jubilee. Refers to Preservation Magazine.
089	Chair Wilson	Closes the public hearing on HCR 12. Opens a work session

HCR 12 - WORK SESSION

091 Rep. Gardner

HCR 12.

MOTION: Moves HCR 12 be sent to the floor with a BE ADOPTED recommendation.

094

VOTE: 8-0

AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.

Chair Wilson

EXCUSED: 1 - Devlin

The motion CARRIES.

REP. WALKER will lead discussion on the floor.

101 Chair Wilson

Closes the work session on HCR 12. Opens a public hearing on HB 3742.

HB 3742 – PUBLIC HEARING

114 Representative Jim Hill

House District 5. Testifies in support of HB 3742 to make sure each ballot will count.

132 Dawn Phillips

Legislative Assistant to Rep. Jim Hill. Submits **(EXHIBIT M)**. Lists concerns of some county clerks:

- Prolong the results.
- Increase workload for the clerks.
- Delay counting ballots for several days.

Refers to the amendments **(EXHIBIT N)**.

Would like people to get their ballots in the mail on election day. States that elections are for the public.

299 Rep. Walker

Asks about ballots mailed outside of the country.

306 Phillips

Responds that it may be easier because they will know a specific date.

322 Rep. Walker

Asks about the time zones west of us, and the closing times of the polls.

327 Phillips

Responds that they need to get it in the mail in that specific time zone.

348 Mark Abrams

Vice Chair of the Portland School Board. Testifies in support of HB 3742. Addresses voter confusion. Believes the county clerks are there to make the system work.

TAPE 93, A

005 Tom Hughes

Mayor of Hillsboro. Testifies in support of HB 3742. Believes this bill will clarify when people need to mail their ballots.

048 Kim Anderson

United States Postal Service. States that he is here to answer questions. Submits **(EXHIBIT O)**.

054 Chair Wilson

Asks how this is working for him.

055 Anderson

Responds that they have a good relationship with the State of Oregon.

060 Chair Wilson

Asks about the unreadable postmark.

066 Anderson

Responds that they have a maintenance crew that does daily preventative maintenance.

070 Rep. Walker

Asks about metered mail.

078 Anderson

Responds that they would cancel each piece.

081 Rep. Walker

Asks what happens if they go through a metered mailbox only.

083 Anderson

Responds that it needs a postal mark.

087 Rep. Walker

Asks for clarification between the metered and canceled mail stamp.

095 Anderson

Responds that it is not a postal mark.

106	Greg Kinsey	Elected County Auditor in Clark County, Washington. Testifies in support of the bill. States that in Washington they count all ballots post marked on the day of election. Believes that this is in the best interest of the voter.
187	Tim Likness	Clark County Elections Department. States that he is available to answer any questions.
195	Charles Stern	Yamhill County Clerk. Explains that the bill and the amendments address voter registration and mail-in ballots.
237	Vicki Ervin	Director of Elections, Multnomah County. Clarifies that this is not a vote by mail issue. Concerned that there is an opportunity to manipulate the vote.
304	Rep. Gardner	Asks if Ms. Ervin is concerned about the four hours to manipulate votes.
307	Ervin	Responds that yes, she is concerned.
315	Rep. Gardner	States he did not know all the results until the following day.
326	Ervin	Responds that there is the additional factor of 50%.
335	Rep. Starr	Asks why the same standard is not used for the illegible postmarks.
346	Stern	Responds that they have two standards, created by the legislature.
352	Rep. Starr	Asks what percentage of postmarks are bad.
366	Stern	Responds that he cannot answer that question.
372	Rep. March	Asks about the concern of having two deadlines.
386	Ervin	Replies that would take care of her concern.
417	Ruth Bendl	States her concerns with the four-hour window. Wants an equal deadline. Believes this bill adds to the confusion of deadlines and postmarks. Submits (EXHIBIT P) .

TAPE 92, B

041	Rep. Gardner	Asks if she would respond positively if she received a late night phone call to vote.
046	Bendl	Responds that she would.
049	Rep. Gardner	Suggests if she was interested in the results wouldn't she have already voted.
051	Bendl	Replies that it would depend on the issue.
061	Scott Tighe	Operations Manager for the Elections Division, Secretary of State's Office. Testifies that this bill may be creating more problems than it is solving.
125	Chair Wilson	Closes the public hearing on HB 3742 Opens a work session on HJR 16.

HJR 16 – WORK SESSION

130	Chair Wilson	Describes the bill.
135	Rep. March	MOTION: Moves HJR 16 be sent to the floor with a BE ADOPTED recommendation.
139		VOTE: 7-0
		AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.
		EXCUSED: 2 - Doyle, Gardner
	Chair Wilson	The motion CARRIES.
		REP. WILSON will lead discussion on the floor.
147	Chair Wilson	Closes the work session on HJR 16. Opens a public hearing on HB 3577.

HB 3577 – PUBLIC HEARING

150 Representative Randy Leonard House District 21. Reviews recent changes on the bill. Requests a work group to discuss some of the language issues.
161 Chair Wilson Closes the public hearing on HB 3577. Opens a work session on HB 3313.

HB 3313 - WORK SESSION

177 Representative Cherryl Walker House District 51. Discusses the –1 amendments. Submits **(EXHIBIT Q)**.
198 Chair Wilson Asks Representative Walker to summarize the problem this bill will correct.
199 Rep. Walker Describes the statement of endorsement form.
211 Fred Neal Campaign Finance Manager and Voter’s Pamphlet Supervisor for Oregon Elections Division. Describes the issue of measure campaign signature on the endorsement statement form.
249 Rep. Starr MOTION: Moves to ADOPT HB 3313-1 amendments dated 04/23/01.
VOTE: 8-0
EXCUSED: 1 – Doyle
Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
254 Rep. Starr MOTION: Moves HB 3313 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation.
257 VOTE: 8-0
AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.
EXCUSED: 1 – Doyle
The motion CARRIES.
REP. C. WALKER will lead discussion on the floor.
265 Chair Wilson Closes the work session on HB 3313. Opens a work session on HB 2087.

HB 2087 – WORK SESSION

270 Representative Betsy Close House District 36. Submits **(EXHIBITS R, S, T and U)**. Testifies in support of this bill. Refers to the amendments she proposes.
409 Rep. March Asks how she feels regarding using a business reply envelope instead of a postmarked one.
422 Rep. Close Responds that she does not know.
432 Rep. March Asks on what basis would there be a challenge.
437 Rep. Close Responds that there was a question regarding college student’s residence.
450 Rep. Garrard Asks what effect she thinks this will have on voter registration numbers.
454 Rep. Close Responds that it is hard to say. Suggests they look to Louisiana for numbers.
478 Chair Wilson Asks what points she is trying to make with the Governor’s veto message of 1995.

Tape 93, B

035 Rep. Close Replies that she just wanted to call attention to his remarks about voter fraud.
046 Rep. Verger Comments about the comparison costs. Asks if you have to register in a new county if you move.
055 Rep. Close Replies that it is her understanding that you have to re-register to vote.
058 Rep. Verger Asks if you have registered at you new address, and the ballot is sent to an old address doesn’t the fault lay on the county.

061 Rep. Close Responds that she would not call it a mistake.
073 Chair Wilson Commends Representative Close on the work she has done on this bill. Closes the work session on HB 2087. Opens a work session on HB 2706.

HB 2706 – WORK SESSION

085 Rep. Devlin Reviews the bill. States that it has to go to Ways and Means.
096 Rep. Devlin **MOTION: Moves HB 2706 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation and BE REFERRED to the Committee on Ways and Means.**

099 Rep. Devlin Notes that when it was before the committee they had a lot of positive testimony.

107 **VOTE: 8-0**

AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.

EXCUSED: 1 – Doyle
The motion CARRIES.

113 Chair Wilson
Chair Wilson Closes the work session on HB 2706. Opens a public hearing on HB 2969.

HB 2969 – PUBLIC HEARING

110 Representative Dan Gardner House District 13. Reviews HB 2969. Believes that this improves the initiative process. Adds a list of three services affected by the bill.

162 Rep. Garrard States that he has a problem with the statement “reduces funding available for”.

167 Rep. Gardner Replies that when you reduce funds available to the legislature, you are reducing the funds available for parts of the budget.

175 Rep. Garrard States that he does not want to scare the public.

179 Rep. Gardner Agrees, but it will reduce funds for certain services.

190 Ray Swinehart Oregon State Grange. Testifies in support of the bill. Submits **(EXHIBIT V)**.

228 Ruth Bendl Asks that the committee drop this bill. States that the voter pamphlet is full of information. Submits **(EXHIBIT W)**.

267 Senator Susan Castillo Senate District 20. Testifies in support of this bill. Explains that this bill gives the voters more information.

301 Senator Lenn Hannon Senate District 26. Testifies in support of this bill. States that the best voter is the informed voter.

340 Bob Castagna Director, Oregon Catholic Conference. Testifies in support of HB 2969.

446 Kappy Eaton League of Women Voters of Oregon. Submits and testifies from **(EXHIBIT X)**. Believes the more information to voters the better.

Tape 94, A

044 Rep. Starr Asks if she would support stating how much it would save.

0449 Eaton Replies that if you have accurate information, yes.

053 Kristen Leonard Oregon Education Association. Submits **(EXHIBIT Y)** and testifies in support of HB 2969.

078 Rep. Starr Asks if she would support a line stating a savings.

082 Leonard Replies that she is not ready to answer.

098 Kim Thomas Oregon Food Bank. Testifies in support of this bill. Explains what her organization does. Submits **(EXHIBIT Z)**.

131 Ellen Lowe Oregon Law Center. Testifies in support of HB 2969. Believes

		that low income Oregonians are most impacted when services are cut.
173	Rep. Verger	Refers to Oregon being one of the highest hunger centers.
186	Thomas	Discusses the hunger situation.
206	Charles Stern	Yamhill County Clerk. States some observations and makes some suggestions regarding the wordiness of the measures.
243	Rep. Gardner	Asks if they are talking about seven words.
250	Stern	Replies he is not sure if that is the sole limit of the amount of words that can be used.
258	Rep. Gardner	Asks if the extra wording might cause problems.
265	Stern	Replies in the affirmative.
270	Chair Wilson	Closes the public hearing on HB 2969. Adjourns the meeting at 3:27 p.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Jennifer Goodman,
Administrative Support

Cara Filsinger,
Administrator

Transcribed By,

Cheryl Young
Committee Assistant

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A – Redistricting, letter from Michael Taylor, submitted by Staff, 1p.**
- B – Redistricting, letter from Susan Hamilton, submitted by Staff, 1p.**
- C – Redistricting, letter from Janet Steele, submitted by Staff, 1p.**
- D - Redistricting, e-mail from Judy Edwards, submitted by Staff, 1p.**
- E – Redistricting, letter from Richard Chasm, submitted by Staff, 1p.**
- F – Redistricting, letter from Jesse Lohrke, submitted by Staff, 2pp.**
- G – Redistricting, letter from Janet Stahl, submitted by Staff, 1p.**
- H – Redistricting, e-mail from Bryce Simmons, submitted by Staff, 1p.**
- I – Redistricting, e-mail from Lylla Gaebel, submitted by Staff, 2pp.**
- J – Redistricting, letter from Senator Avel Gordly, submitted by Staff, 1p.**
- K – Redistricting, letter from Robert Phillips, submitted by Staff, 3pp.**
- L – Redistricting, letter from Rex Burkholder, submitted by Staff, 1p.**
- M – HB 3742, written testimony, submitted by Dawn Phillips, 2pp.**
- N – HB 3742, proposed –2 amendment, submitted by Staff, 1p.**
- O – HB 3742, written testimony, submitted by Kim Anderson, 3pp.**
- P – HB 3742, written testimony, submitted by Ruth Bendl, 1p.**
- Q – HB 3313, written testimony, submitted by Rep. C. Walker, 2pp.**
- R – HB 2087, written testimony, submitted by Rep. B. Close, 1p.**

S – HB 2087, written testimony, submitted by Rep. B. Close, 9pp.
T – HB 2087, written testimony, submitted by Rep. B. Close, 4pp.
U – HB 2087, -5 amendment, submitted by Rep. B. Close, 11pp.
V – HB 2969, written testimony, submitted by Ray Swinehart, 2pp.
W – HB 2969, written testimony, submitted by Ruth Bendl, 1p.
X – HB 2969, written testimony, submitted by Kappy Eaton, 1p.
Y – HB 2969, written testimony, submitted by Kristen Leonard, 1p.
Z – HB 2969, written testimony, submitted by Kim Thomas, 1p.