

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS

February 26, 1997 Hearing Room E

4 P.M. Tapes 11 - 12

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rep. Lynn Snodgrass, Chair

Rep. Peter Courtney, Vice-Chair

Rep. Lee Beyer

Rep. Bill Markham

Rep. Ken Messerle

Rep. Bob Montgomery

Rep. Kitty Piercy

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Brian Griffin, Administrator

Valerie Luhr, Administrative Support

Kellie Shoemaker, Committee Clerk

**MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:**

HB 2603 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.

<b>Tape/#</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>TAPE 11, A</b>		
005	Chair Snodgrass	Calls the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Announces that Brian Griffin is leaving, and introduces Rosemary Wood as the new committee administrator.  Opens the public hearing on HB 2603.
<b><u>HB 2603 - PUBLIC HEARING</u></b>		

043	Rep. Ron Sunseri	State Representative, House District 22. Testifies in support of HB 2603.
067	Jim Hill	State Treasurer. Submits and presents testimony on vote-by-mail issues [EXHIBIT A].
117	Hill	Continues testimony.
144	Chair Snodgrass	Asks if he has an opinion one way or the other on the way HB 2603 is written.
158	Hill	Refers to discussions in 1983:  * Vote-by-mail has increased voter turnout. and was limited to special elections  * When broadened to take in candidates and measure on general and primary ballot, emotions are heightened.  Intimidation issues
213	Rep. Beyer	Testifies about local elections for school boards going on. Not opposed to vote-by-mail, but still provide the opportunity to go to the polls.
237	Hill	Testifies people should have opportunity to opt out of vote-by-mail.
264	Rep. Beyer	Testifies Hill's concept is an interesting one, and you should be able to apply not to receive an absentee ballot.
276	Hill	Responds.
301	Rep. Piercy	Educate people on their options on voting.
319	Don McIntire	Gresham, Oregon. Comments about fraud in voting.
<b>TAPE 12, A</b>		
002	McIntire	Continues testimony.
025	Chair Snodgrass	Reviews provisions of HB 2603.
027	McIntire	* Expresses his dislike of vote-by-mail.  * Differences between vote-by-mail and typical 12-hour election day procedures.  * Organization of "election parties" by interest groups.  * Effect of vote-by-mail on voter turnout. Asks how society benefits.
129	Vice-Chair Courtney	Asks what percentage of voters voted by absentee ballot. Asks how those people are protected from the pressures in their homes that were alluded to.
137	McIntire	Testifies that it does not apply.

143	Vice-Chair Courtney	Asks if the Republican party has had a very aggressive absentee ballot program. Asks if there should be a restriction on absentee ballots.
161	McIntire	Thinks the distribution of ballots automatically is not healthy. Allow people to randomly choose voting place.
188	Vice-Chair Courtney	Asks how many ballots are set aside because of irregularities.
197	McIntire	Does not know the number.
220	Jennifer Waggoner	Submits and presents testimony [EXHIBIT B] in opposition to HB 2603.
289	Jim Bruchic	Wolf Creek, Josephine County, Oregon. Testifies in opposition to vote-by-mail.
354	Ruth Burleigh	Bend, Oregon. Testifies in opposition to HB 2603.
<b>TAPE 11, B</b>		
019	Vicki Ervin	Director of Elections, Multnomah County. Submits and presents testimony [EXHIBIT C] in opposition to HB 2603.
062	Annette Newingham	Chief Deputy County Clerk, Lane County Elections. Submits and presents testimony [EXHIBIT D] in opposition to HB 2603.
098	Ruth Bendl	Submits written information [EXHIBIT E] and testifies in opposition to vote-by-mail. Wants improvements in absentee ballots procedures.
		Submitted for the record from Jim Bruchic, copies of letters [EXHIBIT F] from people in opposition to vote-by-mail.
152	Chair Snodgrass	Adjourns the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Submitted by, Reviewed by,

Valerie H. Luhr Rosemary Wood

Administrative Support Specialist Administrator

Transcribed by,

Erik Deitz

Committee Clerk

### **EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

**A - HB 2603, Written Testimony, Jim Hill, 1 p.**

**B - HB 2603, Written Testimony, Jennifer Waggoner, 1 p.**

**C - HB 2603, Written Testimony, Vicki K. Ervin, 2 pp.**

**D - HB 2603, Written Testimony, Annette K. Newingham, 1 p.**

**E - HB 2603, Written Testimony, Ruth Bendl, 1 p.**

**F - HB 2603, Written Information, Jim Bruchic, 13 pp.**