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SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS

March 20, 1997 Hearing Room 343

3:00 PM Tapes 22 - 23

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Randy Miller, Chair

Sen. Gene Derfler, Vice-Chair

Sen. Randy Leonard

Sen. Cliff Trow

MEMBER EXCUSED:

Sen. Neil Bryant

STAFF PRESENT:

Jan Nordlund, Administrator

Jennifer Peck, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

SJR 3 Public Hearing

SJR 14 Public Hearing

LC 4250 Introduction of Committee Bill

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 22, A		
002	Chair Miller	Opens meeting at 3:25 p.m. and opens subcommittee public hearing on SJR 3.
<u>SJR 3 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
019	Scott Tighe	Manager of Administration, State Elections Division, Secretary of State's office.
026	Fred Neal	Manager of Campaign Finance, State Elections Division, Secretary of State's office.
028	Tighe	Supports SJR 3 and discusses current filing procedures for initiatives. States the number of initiatives filed has increased significantly over the last three election cycles.
069	Tighe	Continues explanation of initiative filing procedures.
091	Neal	Presents (EXHIBIT A) in support of SJR 3. Comments on timing affecting the deliberation process for the voters' pamphlet and the ballots.
133	Tighe	Comments on current filings which would not be effected.
146	Sen. Leonard	Asks about petitioning mentioned in the exhibit.
150	Tighe	Explains the timing of petitioning.
		Sen. Derfler arrives and full committee begins at 3:37 p.m.
170	Chair Miller	Refers to letter submitted by Randy Tucker. Staff submits (EXHIBIT B) on behalf of absent citizens. Asks about the loss of June to gather signatures.
187	Tighe	Discusses petition timing. Explains there are 20 months for gathering signatures. Explains the weather conditions were not considered.
214	Neal	Continues discussion of the timing for filing deadlines and gathering signatures.
252	Chair Miller	Comments on the weather affecting the signature gathering.
263	Al Mobley	Coalition for Initiative Rights, Monmouth, Oregon. Opposes SJR 3. Discusses difficulties of pursuing the initiative process.
332	Mobley	Continues comments on the initiative process. Explains too many changes will adversely effect the process.

387	Phillip Ramsdell	Political Director, Oregon Citizens Alliance. Opposes SJR 3. Comments on counties and the 20-month waiting period. Suggests having centralized voter files at the Secretary of State's office.
439	Sen. Trow	Asks about records kept by county clerks.
444	Ramsdell	Explains how to centralize all files at the Secretary of State's office.
TAPE 23, A		
007	Sen. Trow	Comments on problem of keeping voter files up to date.
013	Chair Miller	Closes public hearing on SJR 3 and opens public hearing on SJR 14.
<u>SJR 14 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
020	Erin B. Thurber	Brooks, Oregon. Supports SJR 14. Presents (EXHIBIT C) in support of SJR 14. Explains impeachment is a powerful tool.
063	Thurber	Explains Oregon is the only state which does not have impeachment powers. States SJR 14 will increase citizen confidence in our heads of state.
096	Sen. Leonard	Asks for an example of a head of state who might be impeached.
105	Thurber	States that impeachments should take place for incapacity and negligence.
123	Sen. Derfler	Asks if impeachments are carried through frequently in other states.
125	Thurber	Gives examples of impeachments in other states.
142	Sen. Trow	Asks about paragraph one, line 6. Asks if Oregon has a process which works equally as well.
151	Thurber	Responds Oregon does have another system but SJR 14 strengthens the process.
164	Sen. Trow	Asks about the types of crimes for which the governor could be impeached and explains the wording is not specific enough.
183	Thurber	Responds that the bill is patterned after wording in the U.S. Constitution.
190	Chair Miller	Discusses page 2, lines 8-9. Asks if Thurber or Legislative Counsel provided the language for SJR 14.
194	Thurber	Responds that he suggested the language in accordance with Indiana's Constitution.
204	Sen. Trow	Comments that the reasons listed are vague.
210		Clarification and discussion of the language referring to crimes.
230	Thurber	States the goal of SJR 14 is to make the Oregon government more efficient.

240	Sen. Trow	Discusses historical impeachments in the United States.
253	Thurber	Explains judges have also been impeached.
261	Sen. Leonard	Comments on the recall of elected public officials in Oregon.
271	Thurber	Comments that other states have recall and impeachment options.
280	Sen. Derfler	Asks about elected officials.
300	Sen. Trow	Requests documentation on other states' impeachment policies.
302	Thurber	States he will try to provide the information.
304	Jan Nordlund	Committee Administrator. Explains where the information is available.
312	Phillip Ramsdell	Oregon Citizens Alliance, Brooks, Oregon. Presents (EXHIBIT D) in support of SJR 14. Explains in recalls there is no formal trial. State citizens should not need to wait through a recall process to get a bad elected official out of office.
365	Sen. Trow	Explains this law seems duplicative to laws we already have. Comments that Oregon has not needed the system to date. Comments on the burden it would be to the Legislature.
413	Chair Miller	Comments that if SJR 14 passed it would not necessarily mean many impeachments would occur.
TAPE 22, B		
008	Chair Miller	Closes public hearing on SJR 14 and opens work session for introduction of new committee measures.
<u>INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE BILLS</u>		
014	Sen. Trow	Requests a listing of the requesters for each LC the committee considers.
026	Sen. Miller	MOTION: Moves LC 4250 dated 3/19/97 BE INTRODUCED as a committee bill.
	Chair Miller	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED. LC 4250 is introduced as SB 1178.
029	Chair Miller	Closes introduction of measure and adjourns meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Jennifer Peck, Jan Nordlund,

Administrative Support Administrator

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EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - SJR 3, written testimony, Fred Neal, 4 pp

B - SJR 3, public testimony submitted prior to meeting, staff, 2 pp

C - SJR 14, written testimony, Erin Thurber, 1 p

D - SJR 14, written testimony, Phillip Ramsdell, 1 p
