

SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
RULES AND ELECTIONS

April 11, 1995 10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

MEASURES HEARD:

Heariny Room C  
Tapes 40 - 1

Sen. Randy Miller, Chair  
Sen. Paul Phillips, Vice-Chair  
Sen. Brady Adams  
Sen. Shirley Gold  
Sen. Dick Springer

Kristina McNitt, Committee Administrator  
Gretchen Haber, Committee Assistant

SB 178: Public Hearing  
SJR11: Public Hearing  
SB 399: Public Hearing  
SB 682: Public Hearing  
SB 644: Public Hearing and Work Session

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Onl~r text enclosed in quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE 40, A

003 CHAIR MILLER Opens the meeting at 10:00 a m Reviews agenda

ODens PUBLIC HEARING on SJR11.

Witnesses: Senator Rod Johnson  
Jim Seagraves

015 SEN. ROD JOHNSON Testifies in favor of SJR11.  
020 - States that it encourages good government and a stronger  
representation Indicates that a true  
majority is a common sense goal.

040 CHAIR MILLER: Indicates support for SJR11. Refers to the sentiment,  
"Don't waste your  
vote" with regard to independent candidates, as a distasteful argument

060 JIM SEAGRAVES test)ifies in favor of SJR11. Refers to written testimony  
(EXHIBIT A). Also  
indicates support for SB 399.

SENATE RULES AND ELECTIONS

April 11, 1995 - Page 2

- Explains that majority rule is the most stable political system when  
looking at comparative  
systems.

-Feels it will discourage candidates who aren't serious.

Concerned that the candidate placing second is not required to request a  
run-off.

Requests inclusion of candidates for national office.

110 CHAIR MILLER: Asks why the Governor's office would be excluded, while the national offices would be included.

115 SEAGRAVES: Answers that there is a legal provision in Article IV of the Oregon Constitution which precludes inclusion of the Governor's Office. Indicates that he would support the inclusion of the governor if that were possible.

Closes PUBLIC HEARING ON SJR11 O DenS PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 399

Witnesses: Colleen Sealock

Vicki Irvin

133 COLLEEN SEALOCK, Dir., Elections Div., Sec. of States Office: Testifies on SB 399.

Refers to written testimony (EXHIBIT B).

135 -- Testifies that she prefers to limit her testimony to the technical operations regarding the measure.

178 -- Indicates that election costs may rise. Refers to payment of first class postage rates.

220 -- Continues testimony.

248 ~ Provides a historical perspective with regard to run-off races and races for the Governor's Office.

-Testifies that the majority of the votes cast at the run-off election would elect the candidate

288 VICKI IRVIN, Dir. of Elections, Multnomah County: Provides examples wherein governments

have faced lawsuits with regard to the time provided for ballot collection.

320 CHAIR MILLER: Requests that Ms. Sealock pursue amendments that would remedy concerns

that she has. He asks about the other states that have run-offs.

269 SEALOCK: States that they have not done research in this area, however, would be willing to look

into it.

340 CHAIR MILLER: Asks for clarification from the committee as to whether additional time should

be allotted for ballot transfer, or if the elections cycle should be shortened to allow for the speedy

election of candidates.

Closes PUBLIC HEARING on SB 399 Onens PUBLIC HEARING on SB 178

Witnesses: Colleen Sealock

Tammy Dutweiler  
Marge Beckeridge

I beseech you to speak as exactly as possible during the proceedings, please

request to speak as exactly as possible during the proceedings, please

re~r to tbe tapes.

SENATE RULES AND ELECTIONS

April 11, 1995 - Page 3

377 COLLEEN SEALOCK, Elections Director, Secretary of the State's Of fice:  
Testifies on SB  
178.

TAPE 41. A

001 SEALOCK: Indicates that the county clerks strongly support the measure.

023 SEN. ADAMS: Asks for clarification as to the liability: would it lie  
with the committee director or the treasurer?

030 SEALOCK: Answers that there is joint liability.

040 SEN. ADAMS: Asks why there is additional liability to the committee  
director, if there is an acting treasurer.

055 SEALOCK: Responds that the intention behind joint liability is to  
provide a double check to contributions and expenditures. Calls for the  
need to statutorily require a second person check the records.

071 CHAIR MILLER: Asks for examples wherein problems occur.

076 TAMMY DUTWEILER, Secretary of State's Off~ce: Answers that, often,  
committee directors will send a letter of resignation to the Secretary of  
State's office. Explains that these situations are problematic.

084 MARGE BECKERIDGE, Executive Director, Oregon Republican Party: Notes  
that she has requested changes to the measure.

092 BECKERIDGE: Indicates that political party committees need to be  
referred -to separately. Would like to allow for the designation of an  
assistant treasurer. Indicates that federal law allows for such a position.

127 SEN. ADAMS: Refers to -1 amendments (EXHIBIT D). Asks if it is  
Beckeridge's desire is to change line 5 "political committee" to "political  
party committee?"

130 BECKERIDGE: Not necessarily saying it needs to be done in this bill,  
however, it is a problem we face each time legislation comes down.

Closes PUBLIC HEARING on SB 178. ODens PUBLIC HEARING on SB 644.

Witnesses: Colleen Sealock Tammy Dutweiler Bill Sizemore

160 KRISTINA McNITT, Committee Administrator: States that Senator Bryant  
sponsored the bill at the request of D. Huntington, who has submitted  
written testimony (EXHIBIT C).

Thae minutes contain materiels which paraphrase and/or sununarize s~ments  
made during this session. Only te~d enclosed in quotation rn~uts report a  
speakAs exact words. For complete contents of dle proceeding:~, please  
refer to the tapa.

SENATE RULES AND ELECTIONS

Apr~l 11, 1995 - Page 4

165 COLLEEN SEALOCK, Elections Director, Secretary of the State's Office:  
Testifies on SB  
644.

180 -Explains that the timelines for federal and state elections are  
different. Explains that the ability  
to track information would be reduced due to the need to also follow  
federal guidelines.

200 -Refers to Ballot Measure Nine from the 1994 election. Indicates there

would be major

complications in the interaction between Measure Nine and SB 644.

226 CHAIR MILLER: Asks if there is a way to exclude from this bill, the federal election requirements,

and raise the threshold from 500 to 1000.

230 SEALOCK: Suggestion would be to delete on page four, lines 18-27; on page seven, lines 38-45, and on page eight, lines 1 and 2.

265 CHAIR MILLER: Asks about changing the figure from 500 to 2500 and how many people would

be obligated to report.

283 TAMMY DUTWEILER, Secretary of State's Office: States the number of committees which would not be required to file a certificate at various levels of contributions.

307 BILL SIZEMORE, Executive Director, Oregon Taxpayers United: Testifies in favor of SB 644.

318 -- Calls for the need to protect free speech rights of political committees.

333 -Discusses burden of filing 40-50 pages of contribution and expenditure reports. Refers also to

voter's pamphlet statements.

380 -Explains that the impact of contribution ceilings are relevant to local political action committees,

but not to statewide PAC's such as Oregon Taxpayer's United. Indicates that no matter what is spent, and no matter what locality it is spent, contribution and expenditure reports are required.

TAPE 40~B

011 SIZEMORE: Explains that it isn't desirable for the committee to establish a separate PAC for each local campaign. Concerned with the subjecting of the organization to high fines.

024 SEALOCK: Notes that testimony from the Secretary of State's office is based on collections from state organizations. Notes that smaller contributions make a much greater impact in local elections.

040 SEN. PHILLIPS: Asks for the standard charges posed for pages in the voter's pamphlet.

045 SEALOCK: Answers that when a statewide agency files a local report or a local statement in the voter's pamphlet, there are questions. Explains that there are many offices to file. Explains the way they would resolve concerns.

082 CHAIR MILLER: Discusses the granting of discretion by the Secretary of State's office. Discusses the need for protection from citizens who come forth with flaws in the filing documents from fines.

103 SEALOCK: Says that there is a need to avoid the position of determining integrity in claims.

117 SEN. PHILLIPS: Asks why it is not sufficient to file contribution and expenditure reports at the state level, and then indicate to the local office simply the total dollar amounts?

Thae nun~ codein nubdde whiicb p~pka~e and/ar au~ mbmenb mede awing this  
~om Only te~d mclo~ed in quotation mulu

report ~ ~peeka~ ex~A wcr~h. For complete con~ cf ~e procoedin~. please  
refer to ~e tya.

SENATE RULES AND ELECTIONS  
April 11, 1995 - Page 5

130 SEALOCK: Answers that it would be sufficient.

Closes PUBLIC HEARING on SB 644. Ooens WORK SESSION on SB 644.

165 SEN. PHILLIPS: Says the threshold of contribution allowance needs to be  
increased.

180 CHAIR MILLER: Indicates that the Secretary of State's office advises  
that the threshold is a matter of policy.

190 CHAIR MILLER: Suggests a figure of \$2,000.

193 SEN. SPRINGER: More comfortable with \$1000 at this  
point.

202 MOTION: CHAIR MILLER: Moves to amend the bill by taking out sections  
dealing with Federal reporting requirements, and raise the level of  
contribution allowance to new amount of \$2,000.

Senator Springer indicated he would be a "no" vote.

The committee recessed awaiting the arrival of Senator Gold. The committee  
reconvened.

279 SEN. GOLD: states that each time the threshold is raised, less  
information is known. Explains that this will be the basis for her "no"  
vote.

CHAIR MILLER: Requests a roll call vote.

GRETCHEN HABER, Clerk: Adams Gold Phillips Springer Chair Miller MOTION  
CARRIES.

aye no aye no aye

MOTION: SENATOR PHILLIPS: Moves the bill, as amended, be carried to the  
floor with a do pass recommendation.

CHAIR MILLER: States his intent is to come back and look at the other issue  
of state facts filing locally. -He requests a roll call vote.

GRETCHEN HABER, Clerk:  
Adams  
Gold  
Phillips  
Springer

aye no

aye no

Chair Miller aye

Thae minutes conb~in malaiab which pe~e andlor surnnna~ize ~tanenb made  
during this sossion. Only te~d enclosed in quotalion marks report ... Fpe~s  
a~act w~ For co~nplete cont~ ofthe proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

MOTION CARRIES.

Closes WORK SESSION on SB 644. ODens PUBLIC HEARING on SB 682.

SENATE RILLES AND ELECTIONS

April 11, 1995 - Page 6

320 CHAIR MILLER: Explains measure. Indicates that he is not interested in the requirement of expenditure reporting to the Senate President. Does prefer compensation up to a \$400. Maximum.

341 SEN. PHILLIPS: Asks for clarification with regard to when the checks are issued.

347 SEN. GOLD: Indicates that it is no longer a separate check but that it is now provided along with the general check

Closes PUBLIC HEARING on SB 682.

369 CHAIR MILLER: Adjourns meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Submitted by:

Gretchen Haber  
Committee Assistant

Assisted by: A  
Dar' Woodrum /J~ 6V<~6  
Committee Assistant

EXHIBIT SUMMARY:

A - Testimony on SB 399 -- J. Seagraves --1 pg. B- Testimony on SB 399 -- Colleen Sealock-- 4 pas. C -Testimony on SB 644-D. Huntington -- 2 pas. D -Proposed Amendments to SB 178 -- Staff-- 1 pg.

Reviewed by:

Kristina McNitt  
Committee Administrator

These minutes contain materiab which paraphrase and/or sumrnalize statanents made during this sasion. Only te~d enclosed in quotalion marks report a spal~s exact words. For complete conbuts of the proceedings, please refer to ~e tapes.

t