MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS
AND THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Seventy-sixth Session
March 24, 2011

The joint meeting of the Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections and the Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair David R. Parks at 4:14 p.m. on Thursday, March 24, 2011, at the Fallon Convention Center, 100 Campus Way, Fallon, Nevada. Exhibit A is the Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator David R. Parks, Chair
Senator Moises (Mo) Denis, Vice Chair
Senator Steven A. Horsford
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske
Senator James A. Settelmeyer

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Tick Segerblom, Chair
Assemblywoman Lucy Flores, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Marcus Conklin
Assemblyman Richard (Skip) Daly
Assemblyman Pete Goicoechea
Assemblyman Tom Grady
Assemblyman Cresent Hardy
Assemblyman Pat Hickey
Assemblyman William C. Horne
Assemblywoman Marilyn K. Kirkpatrick
Assemblyman Richard McArthur
Assemblyman John Oceguera
Assemblyman James Ohrenschall
Assemblywoman Debbie Smith
Assemblyman Lynn D. Stewart

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STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patrick Guinan, Policy Analyst
Carol Stonefield, Policy Analyst
Kathy Steinle, GIS Specialist, Information Technology Services Unit,
        Administration Division
Michael Stewart, Supervising Principal Research Analyst, Research Division
Sonia Folsom, Committee Manager
Michael Geissinger, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

James Smack, Chairman, Churchill County Republican Central Committee
Joe Dahl
John O'Connor
Bob Johnston

CHAIR PARKS:
I will open the joint town hall meeting for the Senate and Assembly Committees
on Legislative Operations and Elections. We will be discussing the redistricting
and reapportionment process taking place in the current Legislative Session.
I would like to recognize some guest Legislators with us here today: Senator
Mike McGinness, Central Nevada Senatorial District, and Assemblyman
Edwin A. Goedhart, Assembly District No. 36.

MICHAEL STEWART (Supervising Principal Research Analyst, Research Division):
Our last joint hearing on March 10 focused more on the 2010 U.S. Census and
the figures the Census supplied for our redistricting and reapportionment
process. This hearing will be more of a learning session on the redistricting and
reapportionment process. The goal is to further educate the Committee and
general public. I have prepared a PowerPoint presentation (Exhibit C).

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 19 of the 75th Session was an interim
study which focused on reapportionment and redistricting. An interim study
occurs every ten years before redistricting and reapportioning so the Legislature
can preview the process and requirements. The A.C.R. No. 19 of the
75th Session was very similar to what was considered ten years ago. It directed
a study be performed to include an examination and monitoring of redistricting

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systems, including the requirement for computer equipment, computer software and the training of personnel. In addition, A.C.R. No. 19 of the 75th Session directed an interim study to review case law concerning legal requirements for redistricting and reapportionment; a review of the programs for planning reapportionment and redistricting; a continuation of the State's participation in programs of the U.S. Census Bureau; and the Census Bureau's program to increase awareness to the general public concerning the Census and an accurate count.

The interim study recommended the purchase of eight autoBound redistricting software licenses. Four would be used by the caucuses, two for staff and two for public workstations. I remind the public we have a public workstation in Carson City and Las Vegas. There is training available from staff of the Legislative Counsel Bureau. The study also recommended hiring four employees in the current Session to help with the geographic information system (GIS) task. These employees will assist the caucuses in the reapportionment and redistricting endeavor.

Election databases are used to redraw district lines. The interim study selected four election databases that include comprehensive election information from four elections. These include the 2000 general election for Governor, 2008 general election for President of the United States, the 2010 U.S. Senate race and 2010 State Treasurer's race. The interim study report provides background relating to redistricting and reapportionment. It explains the difference between redistricting and reapportionment in detail and provides history and statistics on current legislative districts.

The report summarizes four meetings held and discusses the importance of the U.S. Census Bureau. There are highlights of Nevada's participation rates and of the Census Bureau redistricting data program. We assisted the Census Bureau several years before the 2010 Census to help the process. The interim committee discussed legal requirements within the U.S. Constitution with regard to the equal protection clause. We discussed ethnic and language minority considerations, partisan gerrymandering, traditional districting principles, multimember districts and Nevada constitutional requirements. This was all included in the report with summaries of population trends, demographic details for legislative districts, legislative scenarios and a summary of recommendations.

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KATHY STEINLE (GIS Specialist, Information Technology Services Unit, Administration Division):
I am here to give a brief demonstration of our redistricting software. The Legislature selected autoBound redistricting software. It is written by a company named Citygate GIS. The redistricting tools used by the autoBound software actually sit on top of Environmental Systems Research Institute's ArcGIS software. You can follow along as I demonstrate how the program operates. When we build districts, our goal is to give them equal population. In our current Assembly districts, you can see that most of them need to add population to reach our ideal population of 64,299 people. I will use our autoBound software to show you how to add population to Assemblyman Pete Goicoechea's District 35 by moving precincts into District 35 from another district which has too much population.

I also have prepared a PowerPoint presentation, Census Geography and Redistricting (Exhibit D). In the presentation I explain the process and terms used.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN FLORES:
Could you tell everyone where they can access the program? Is it available on the Internet?

MS. STEINLE:
Our legislative Website has a redistricting and reapportionment tab which gives a phone number to call to set up an appointment for training at the public workstation.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN FLORES:
Would people in Fallon have to drive to Carson City?

MS. STEINLE:
That is correct. We have a public workstation in the Legislative Building in Carson City and the Grant Sawyer State Office Building in Las Vegas.

ASSEMBLYMAN GOICOECHEA:
Would you show the constituents how redistricting can be done by staying within rural counties? Your previous demonstration moved population from urban Washoe County to balance District 35. I would like people to see

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redistricting can be done with population from rural communities. I do not want people concerned about being shifted into Reno proper.

MS. STEINLE:
This is a demonstration only; therefore, I moved population from the easiest source. The software allows for many different ways to perform the redistricting so rural can remain rural.

JAMES SMACK (Chairman, Churchill County Republican Central Committee):
As spokesman of the Republican Party in Churchill County, our constituents are concerned rural counties will be realigned into irrelevance by reducing the numbers of rural representation within the Senate and Assembly. Another concern is the integrity of Congressional District 2, which could be realigned into a large portion of Clark County, diluting the rural flavor of the district. We would like to maintain the integrity of rural counties and Washoe County for Congressional District 2. I would like to bring the concept of "nesting" to the Committee's attention. Nesting is basically taking the 21 Senate Districts, dividing them in equal population portions and then nesting two Assembly Districts within each of those Senate Districts. We feel this is a fair way to reapportion districts.

ASSEMBLYMAN SEGERBLOM:
What do you consider rural Nevada?

MR. SMACK:
For Congressional District 2, I consider rural Nevada to include Washoe County, Carson City and every county other than Clark County. For Assembly and Senate Districts, I consider rural as the 15 counties other than Washoe or Clark. My concern is for adequate representation based on population.

ASSEMBLYMAN SEGERBLOM:
Do you feel rural Nevada has a unique characteristic we should try to preserve by having representation specifically designed for that area?

MR. SMACK:
Many of the concerns for rural Nevada are things people in Clark and Washoe Counties do not consider. These issues might be water, agriculture,

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mining, grazing rights, etc. The representatives of rural counties understand these issues and bring knowledge to the Legislature.

JOE DAHL:
I urge the Committee to not mix urban and rural representation. The rural counties would prefer one rural representative, rather than two from mixed urban and rural districts. It is important to preserve the unique characteristics of sparsely populated rural areas.

JOHN O'CONNOR:
I would like Churchill County, Storey County and possibly Lyon County under one district.

BOB JOHNSTON:
Mr. Segerblom, a lot of rural Nevada is unique. I have concerns with regard to funding for rural parks and recreation if we get thrown in with urban areas. I have spoken to Legislators about rural counties. We have a definite affinity to the rural counties. Senator McGinness and Assemblymen Goicoechea and Grady all have a love for the rural counties. If reapportionment is done strictly by the numbers, as shown in the presentation, where do rural counties end up? Is there any way to reduce the population district requirement numbers for rural areas? We do not want to get into Washoe County urban areas.

ASSEMBLYMAN HICKEY:
In a briefing held last week, it was suggested meetings like this are important for the voting public to understand the process of redistricting. A recommendation was made to have meetings, like this one, after our maps have been drawn. In the interest of rural constituents, I hope we can create an opportunity to present the maps for feedback prior to finalizing the districts.

CHAIR PARKS:
For the record, I received written testimony (Exhibit E) via e-mail from Juanita Cox, Chairman of the Storey County Republican Reapportionment and Legislative Committee.

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CHAIR PARKS:
The meeting is adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

_____
Michael Geissinger,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

_____
Senator David R. Parks, Chair

DATE:_____

_____
Assemblyman Tick Segerblom, Chair

DATE:_____

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EXHIBITS			
Bill	**Exhibit**	**Witness / Agency**	**Description**
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster
	C	Michael Stewart	PowerPoint presentation "An Introduction to Reapportionment and Redistricting"
	D	Kathy Steinle	PowerPoint Presentation "Census Geography and Redistricting"
	E	Juanita Cox	Written Testimony