

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

February 17, 2011
8:05 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Bob Lynn, Chair
Representative Wes Keller, Vice Chair
Representative Paul Seaton
Representative Pete Petersen
Representative Kyle Johansen

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Peggy Wilson
Representative Max Gruenberg

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 98

"An Act relating to display, folding, presentment, and retirement of the state flag."

- MOVED OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 111

"An Act relating to special request choose life license plates; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 74

"An Act relating to election pamphlets; relating to information that must be provided for a bill under consideration by the legislature that authorizes the issuance of state general obligation bonds and to information that must be provided before the issuance of state general obligation bonds is submitted to the voters for ratification; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 98

SHORT TITLE: HANDLING OF STATE FLAG

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) JOHNSON

01/18/11 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/18/11 (H) STA
02/17/11 (H) STA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 106

BILL: HB 111

SHORT TITLE: LICENSE PLATES: CHOOSE LIFE
SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) MILLETT

01/21/11 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/21/11 (H) STA, FIN
02/17/11 (H) STA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 106

BILL: HB 74

SHORT TITLE: INFO ON MATTERS IN ELECTION PAMPHLET
SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) GRUENBERG

01/18/11 (H) PREFILE RELEASED 1/14/11
01/18/11 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/18/11 (H) STA, FIN
02/17/11 (H) STA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 106

WITNESS REGISTER

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented HB 98 as sponsor.

BIANCA ARMSTRONG
A.J. Dimond High School U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers'
Training Corps ("Dimond JROTC")
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the hearing on HB 98.

ROBERT HELZER, Lieutenant Commander
A.J. Dimond High School U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers'
Training Corps ("Dimond JROTC")
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the hearing on HB 98.

JEANNE OSTNES, Staff
Representative Carl Johnson
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided comments during the hearing on HB 98, on behalf of Representative Johnson, sponsor.

CHARISSE MILLETT
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented HB 111 as sponsor.

RUSS AMERLING, National Publicity Coordinator
"Choose Life" License Plate
Florida

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 111.

TED MADSEN, Staff
Representative Max Gruenberg
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented HB 74 on behalf of Representative Gruenberg, sponsor.

GAIL FENUMIAI, Director
Division of Elections
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions during the hearing on HB 74.

DEVEN MITCHELL, Debt Manager
Treasury Division
Department of Revenue
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions during the hearing on HB 74.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[8:05:15 AM](#)

CHAIR BOB LYNN called the House State Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. Representatives Keller, Seaton, Johansen, Petersen, and Lynn were present at the call to order.

HB 98-HANDLING OF STATE FLAG

[8:05:48 AM](#)

CHAIR LYNN announced that the first order of business was HOUSE BILL NO. 98, "An Act relating to display, folding, presentment, and retirement of the state flag."

[8:06:31 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON, Alaska State Legislature, presented HB 98 as sponsor. He stated that the idea for the bill was generated by the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), whose members pointed out that there are no rules designating the proper way to display, fold, and store the Alaska flag. The proposed legislation would address the issue and show respect for the state's flag. Furthermore, HB 98 would outline the proper way to dispose of the flag. He said he is not proposing that Alaska do anything that other states do not do or that is not already done for the country's flag.

[8:10:13 AM](#)

CHAIR LYNN opined that a flag of a sovereign state deserves respect, and he expressed appreciation for the bill.

[8:10:47 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SEATON directed attention to page 2, line 11, and asked for a definition of an "official flag of the state".

[8:11:41 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON said he does not think "official flag" is designated, but said he thinks that term would include any state flag that flies over a subdivision of the state, such as at the capitol building and public schools. He said there is no language in the bill that would impose a penalty for a citizen who does not display or store the flag in the manner proposed in HB 98.

[8:13:52 AM](#)

BIANCA ARMSTRONG, A.J. Dimond High School U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps ("Dimond JROTC"), indicated that she was part of the group of JROTC members who started a project two years ago wherein they observed that the Alaska flag was being displayed in various directions. The group discovered that Title 4 addressed the retirement of only the U.S. flag, not the Alaska flag.

[8:15:02 AM](#)

ROBERT HELZER, Lieutenant Commander, A.J. Dimond High School U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps ("Dimond JROTC"), stated that another part of the Dimond JROTC's project involved designing a way in which the Alaska flag should be folded. After some discussion, the group decided unanimously that the flag should be folded in a rectangle with the North Star showing on top. He introduced a video, which showed the folding process.

[8:17:40 AM](#)

[The video was shown.]

[8:23:16 AM](#)

JEANNE OSTNES, Staff, Representative Carl Johnson, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Representative Johnson, sponsor, related a way to remember the folding method just shown in the video.

[8:24:20 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KELLER expressed pride in the Alaska flag and being an Alaskan.

[8:25:43 AM](#)

CHAIR LYNN, after ascertaining that there was no one else to testify, closed public testimony.

[8:25:58 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SEATON related that when he was on a trip to Idaho and to Minnesota, he never saw their respective flags. He said he thinks Alaskans feel more strongly about their flag. He further noted that in other states, people he asked were hard pressed to describe what their flag looks like. He said most places in Alaska there will be a flag flown.

[8:27:54 AM](#)

CHAIR LYNN added that Alaska is one of few states where people actually stand when the Alaska Flag song is played.

[8:28:21 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PETERSEN asked if HB 98 would make the proper flag folding instructions part of statute, and whether instructions would be given out with the purchase of a flag.

[8:28:46 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON said the sale of flags is a private enterprise, in which he does not want to get involved. He drew attention to a publication in the committee packet entitled, "Alaska's Flag Etiquette," which he said will not be copyrighted and would be available on the Internet for anyone who wanted to make a copy.

[8:30:23 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON, in response to Representative Seaton, reiterated that under HB 98 there would be no penalty to anyone who did not follow the guidelines put forth in the bill.

[8:31:32 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KELLER moved to report HB 98 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HB 98 was reported out of the House State Affairs Standing Committee.

[8:31:55 AM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease.

HB 111-LICENSE PLATES: CHOOSE LIFE

[8:33:43 AM](#)

CHAIR LYNN announced that the next order of business was HOUSE BILL NO. 111, "An Act relating to special request choose life license plates; and providing for an effective date."

[8:34:12 AM](#)

CHARISSE MILLETT, Alaska State Legislature, presented HB 111 as sponsor. She said HB 111 would allow the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a specialty license plate, on which is written, "Choose Life." The fee for the plate would be \$30. The license plate would also depict the faces of a boy and girl. Representative Millett said 26 other states have "Choose Life"

license plates, and 15 other states currently are considering legislation to approve the "Choose Life" license plate.

[8:35:41 AM](#)

RUSS AMERLING, National Publicity Coordinator, "Choose Life" License Plate, testified in support of HB 111. He said Choose Life, Inc. was formed to get the license plate approved in Florida, and the incorporation has offered its services to other states who want "Choose Life" license plates. He relayed that over 625,000 "Choose Life" license plates have been sold or renewed in the states that have the plate approved.

[8:36:52 AM](#)

MR. AMERLING, in response to Chair Lynn, said the "Choose Life" plate was first issued in Florida in August of 2000, and over the next four years, as various other states approved the plate, there were groups who filed suit. However, he said those law suits ultimately failed to prevent the plates from being made available, and there have been no law suits filed since 2005.

[8:38:32 AM](#)

CHAIR LYNN, after ascertaining that there was no one else who wished to testify, closed public testimony.

[8:38:44 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KELLER moved to report HB 111 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HB 111 was reported out of the House State Affairs Standing Committee.

[8:39:07 AM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease.

HB 74-INFO ON MATTERS IN ELECTION PAMPHLET

[8:40:49 AM](#)

CHAIR LYNN announced that the final order of business was HOUSE BILL NO. 74, "An Act relating to election pamphlets; relating to information that must be provided for a bill under consideration by the legislature that authorizes the issuance of state general obligation bonds and to information that must be provided before

the issuance of state general obligation bonds is submitted to the voters for ratification; and providing for an effective date."

[8:41:22 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KELLER moved to adopt the proposed committee substitute (CS) for HB 74, Version 27-LS0008\0, Bullard, 2/16/11, as a work draft. There being no objection, Version 0 was before the committee.

[8:41:44 AM](#)

TED MADSEN, Staff, Representative Max Gruenberg, Alaska State Legislature, presented HB 74 on behalf of Representative Gruenberg, sponsor. He said the proposed legislation would increase the amount of information available to voters for both primary and general elections by modifying the corresponding election pamphlets. Furthermore, it would increase the amount of information available to legislators working on general obligation bond legislation.

MR. MADSEN stated that under the original bill version, Section 1 would have required the lieutenant governor to prepare, publish, and mail an election pamphlet to every registered voter, but under Version 0, the language is restored to the original language of AS 15.58.010, wherein the pamphlet would be mailed to "each household identified from the official registration list." He noted that Section 1 would also delete "at least" before "one election pamphlet". He said Section 2 would amend AS 15.58.020 to include the general obligation bond prepared under Section 10. He related that Section 3 would repeal and reenact AS 15.58.020(b), which addresses informational material presented in primary and special election pamphlets. He explained that presently the only requirement is that information be presented regarding ballot propositions and voting procedures. The reenactment of the statute would include: information on candidates for primary or special elections; a map of the districts; samples ballots; an absentee ballot application; bond information; and notice to changes to precincts.

MR. MADSEN relayed that Section 4 would amend AS 15.58.030(b), regarding submittal of a candidate's photograph and statement of candidacy, by adding a deadline of July 22 for a general election and June 1 for a primary election. It would also allow a candidate to change his/her photo and statement from a primary

pamphlet to a general election pamphlet. He said Section 5 would amend AS 15.58.060(a), regarding fees for filing for candidacy, so that the fees would apply to the primary and general elections. He said Section 6 would amend AS 15.58.080(a), regarding the mailing of the election pamphlet. He said Section 6 would require the pamphlet to be mailed not less than 22 days before each primary or general election. He related that Section 7 would amend AS 15.58.080 by adding a new subsection requiring all information in a primary, general, or special election pamphlet to be published on the division's web site not later than the date the pamphlet is mailed to registered voters.

MR. MADSEN said Section 8 would amend AS 24.08.037 by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

(b) In addition to the fiscal note requirements of AS 24.08.035 and the requirements of (a) of this section, before a bill authorizing the issuance of state general obligation bonds is referred to the rules committee, there shall be attached to the bill a statement with the following information:

(1) the current general obligation and other bonded indebtedness of the state and the effect of the proposed bonding on that indebtedness;

(2) the average cost of the annual debt service on the current general obligation bonded indebtedness and the effect of the proposed bonding on the average cost of the annual debt service;

(3) the amount of state general obligation debt principal that could be issued and paid for from the Alaska debt retirement fund (AS 37.15.011);

(4) the estimated debt service requirements for the bond issue proposed under the bill;

(5) whether the bond issue proposed under the bill will be repaid with amounts from the Alaska debt retirement fund (AS 37.15.011).

MR. MADSEN said Section 9 would amend AS 37.13.170, regarding the biennial publishing of a report related to the Alaska Permanent Fund, to require that that be published in the general election pamphlet. He said Section 10 would amend AS 37.15.015(a), which requires the state bond committee to publish a notice in newspapers when a bond issue will on the ballot, so that a notice would also be required in the election pamphlet. He stated that the statute would be further amended to require the following information be included in the publication: the

information that is presented to legislators when voting on general obligation bond packages, as well as a description, the location, and the cost of each capital project currently in the package. Mr. Madsen related that Section 11 would repeal AS 15.15.040(b), which is made unnecessary with the inclusion of Sections 2 and 3. He said Section 12 provides the effective date.

[8:46:54 AM](#)

MR. MADSEN stated his belief that the proposed legislation is a valuable tool with which to increase the amount of information available to both the public and legislators.

[8:47:20 AM](#)

CHAIR LYNN relayed that he has always found the State Election Pamphlet a valuable tool when choosing candidates. He pointed out that although every candidate pays the \$100, almost half of those in the primary election will not be in the general election.

[8:49:44 AM](#)

MR. MADSEN said there is a Legislative Legal and Research Services report that shows that approximately 40 percent of races are effectively decided in the primary election.

[8:52:52 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SEATON directed attention to the addition of primary elections to the language in Section 10, on page 5, and surmised that there would not be a significant cross-section of the voting public showing up at primary elections. He asked if it is the sponsor's intent to "have general obligation bonds in primary elections."

[8:54:08 AM](#)

MR. MADSEN responded as follows:

That was not the intent of this section. It was the intent that ... in case there ever is a change in state law to include general obligation bonds at the primary election that this would still cover that statute.

REPRESENTATIVE SEATON indicated that he thinks adding "primary" would put the state in the position of saying that "we can't have a general obligation bond at a state election."

[8:55:19 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SEATON directed attention to Section 3, regarding ballot propositions at primary elections, said results at primary elections are not the same as when the broader spectrum of the electorate is present. He recommended the bill sponsor consider including ballot propositions only on general election ballots.

CHAIR LYNN questioned whether the bill title is broad enough to include that change. He then suggested this is a point to revisit.

[8:58:41 AM](#)

GAIL FENUMIAI, Director, Division of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, in response to Representative Seaton's question regarding Section 10, said it would be a policy call for the committee to decide whether to put general obligation bond information on primary election ballots. In response to another question from Representative Seaton, she offered her understanding that under HB 74, a candidate's photograph and statement for a primary election would be due by June 1. She said the process undertaken by the division to ready the pamphlets is labor-intensive, but that the division should be able to handle the proposed June 1 date.

[9:00:49 AM](#)

MS. FENUMIAI, in response to Representative Petersen, confirmed that under HB 74, a candidate running in the primary election would have to submit his/her photograph and statement no later than June 1. In response to Chair Lynn, she said someone who filed at the last minute would still have to submit his/her photograph and statement by June 1 or it would not be included in the primary pamphlet.

CHAIR LYNN suggested that there could be one day between the last day to file and the day that the photograph and statement would be due.

REPRESENTATIVE SEATON asked if a five-day lag would work.

MS. FENUMIAI said the division starts processing the information as it is received, so she said she thinks an extra four days would be okay.

9:04:04 AM

REPRESENTATIVE PETERSEN directed attention to Section 6, which would require the lieutenant governor to mail the election pamphlet to each household not less than 22 days before each primary or general election. He said with primary elections taking place in the latter half of August, the pamphlets would be mailed out around the first of August. He asked Ms. Fenumiai, then, if giving candidates 10 days after June 1 to submit photographs and statements would give the division sufficient time.

9:04:51 AM

MS. FENUMIAI offered her recollection that two to three weeks prior to the mailing date, the pamphlet is printed. For example, she said for an August 28 mailing, the printing would occur August 6, and the information would be sent to the printer in mid-July. She surmised that there would not be that many candidates who waited until June 1 to declare their candidacy, and if they were given until June 8 or 9 to submit their photos and statements, the division would be able to work with that schedule.

9:06:13 AM

MS. FENUMIAI, in response to the chair, estimated that approximately 200,000 pamphlets are printed, because one is sent out to each household, not to each registered voter. In response to a follow-up question, he said who gets the job to print the pamphlets is decided through an invitation to bid process; the only vendor that met the criteria in 2010 was a vendor in Portland, Oregon.

CHAIR LYNN said he would like business to go to Alaskan companies as much as possible.

MS. FENUMIAI indicated that the division agrees.

CHAIR LYNN recollected that in 2008, someone running for a House seat had issued a provocative candidate statement saying that the justice system had aided and abetted the rape of court

employees. He asked if there are guidelines regarding what is and is not acceptable to print in a statement.

MS. FENUMIAI answered that the division has been told by the Department of Law that unless statute is changed, the division must print all statements as submitted. She said the division can write a disclaimer that the statement does not reflect the views of the division.

CHAIR LYNN said he would like to pursue the matter further with the Department of Law.

MS. FENUMIAI offered to bring information from the department to Chair Lynn.

[9:09:45 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SEATON, in response to Representative Johansen, clarified that there are two issues he is addressing. The first is in Section 10, which is solely addressing general obligation bonds. The other issue is in Section 3, which addresses ballot propositions. He said he would like to know what the number of voters is at primary and general elections.

[9:11:03 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE JOHANSEN offered his understanding that general obligation bonds are addressed in statute, while guidance related to timing on initiatives and referendums is located within the constitution. He asked if that is correct.

MS. FENUMIAI responded that there is both a reference in the constitution and statutory language that once an application is received and deemed ready to be placed on the ballot, a legislative session must convene and adjourn, and then 120 days must pass, at which point the [initiative] is allowed to go on the next ballot.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHANSEN emphasized his interest in ballot referendums and propositions.

[9:12:41 AM](#)

MS. FENUMIAI noted that the language regarding initiatives is found in Article 11, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska, and she reiterated that there is related language in statute.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHANSEN said it is apparent to him that a strategy has been in play to put certain issues on the primary rather than on the general election ballot, which he said "speaks to the broadness of the statewide issue that Representative Seaton is getting at."

REPRESENTATIVE SEATON said he is not trying to incorporate a constitutional amendment into the scope of HB 74; however, he said he thinks this is a big issue.

[9:14:34 AM](#)

MS. FENUMIAI, in response to Representative Petersen, confirmed that the bill, as currently written, is not aimed at changing the state's initiative process; ballot initiative information is printed in primary election pamphlets. She offered her understanding that Section 3 is saying that in addition to that information, a primary election pamphlet would also include "everything except judicial candidates and information about the permanent fund dividend." She further relayed that under Version 0, the fiscal note would be substantially reduced, because the original bill required a pamphlet to be sent to every voter in the state, while Version 0 would require one pamphlet for every household. In response to Chair Lynn, she confirmed that the fiscal note in the committee packet pertains to the original version of the bill.

[9:15:52 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SEATON pointed out that the language on page 3, lines 23-24, would, for a general election, require the candidate's photograph and statement to be filed no later than July 22. He then noted that the language on page 4, lines 1-3, would allow a candidate who filed a photograph and statement in the primary election pamphlet to file a different photograph and statement in the general election pamphlet. He said the primary would not have occurred, so he is not sure what "the interaction between those dates" would be. He asked Ms. Fenumiai to address that conflict of dates.

MS. FENUMIAI asked for clarification from the bill sponsor.

[9:17:38 AM](#)

MR. MADSEN said the intent is that the statement supplied by June 1 would be published in the primary election pamphlet,

while the statement supplied by July 22 would be published in the general election pamphlet; therefore, he said a candidate would not be able to change his statement [and photograph] between the primary to the general election pamphlets.

[9:18:52 AM](#)

MS. FENUMIAI said it looks like Version 0 is having the candidate prepare two statements, but as Representative Seaton pointed out, a candidate would not know by July 22 if he/she was going to be advancing to the general election. She said the division would most likely prepare two sets of photographs and statements to be prepared for both pamphlets.

CHAIR LYNN suggested that "somebody might wish to change it for the general election as opposed to voting within your political party."

[9:20:34 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SEATON, in response to Ms. Fenumiai, confirmed that he would like to coordinate the dates "so that they make sense," without compromising the time need to adequately prepare the pamphlets. He opined that the opportunity to change photographs and statements should most likely be given to those individuals who win their primary elections, but said he does not know if the timing would work.

[9:21:12 AM](#)

MS. FENUMIAI said results of the primary are not official until mid-September, which is too close to the general election.

[9:21:36 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE JOHANSEN said under HB 74, candidates who want to write a second statement for the general election would have to do so during the last three weeks before the primary election in order to make the deadline, and those are the most critical weeks before a primary election. He then questioned how this would work for close or contested races. He opined that a person's statement reflects who he/she is and should remain the same for both election pamphlets. He concluded, "I'm not really a fan of this bill at first blush."

[9:23:07 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SEATON suggested that some candidates - especially those running for the first time - may want to communicate what they have learned during the primary process by submitting a new statement. He said he thinks 5 to 8 days would suffice; he clarified that he is not thinking that candidates should have to wait for certification before submitting a new statement for the general election.

MS. FENUMIAI said she would talk to her staff to see what they think would be workable.

[9:25:23 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE JOHANSEN asked Ms. Fenumiai if it is common practice in other states to send out pamphlets to everyone.

MS. FENUMIAI said she would have to check. She said she knows that some states mail their pamphlets. She noted that the division published pamphlets on line in 2010.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHANSEN said he would be interested to find out how the state could supply the information without spending so much money.

MS. FENUMIAI related that the cost of sending the general election pamphlet to every household is approximately \$209,000, and a new fiscal note for Version 0 would reflect that.

[9:27:25 AM](#)

DEVEN MITCHELL, Debt Manager, Treasury Division, Department of Revenue, referred to Section 10 and said the division already follows the requirements there, with the exception of [paragraph (6)], which read as follows:

(6) a brief description of each capital project, its location, and, in dollars, that portion of the total bond issue offered for ratification to be allocated to the project.

MR. MITCHELL said he thinks it would be beneficial to include this type of information in the voter pamphlet, and there would be no fiscal impact in doing so. In response to Representative Seaton, he confirmed that projects are well-defined at the point at which they are brought to the division.

[9:30:40 AM](#)

MR. MITCHELL, in response to Representative Keller, said there are a lot of obligations that the state has aside from general obligation bonds - the unfunded liability related to the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) pensions is one. He said although the topic is germane, he does not know if it would warrant inclusion in this bill, and including it may lead to people questioning various other items that the state is responsible for paying. He said recently Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") made more public its inclusion of the unfunded liability in its analysis of public credits, and Fitch, Inc. came out with a report today.

REPRESENTATIVE KELLER said, "I was thinking of all the above, and I ... would like a little time to consider that"

REPRESENTATIVE JOHANSEN asked if the division has an analysis of "how that's going to affect our debt ratings" that could be shared with the committee.

MR. MITCHELL responded that Moody's release was not a surprise, and the company is well informed of the state's position regarding PERS and TRS. He said the state received the highest rating from Moody's last year prior to the issue of the 2010 bonds and does not expect any change of that rating or any other ratings of the state.

[9:33:45 AM](#)

CHAIR LYNN announced that he would hold public testimony open.

[9:34:22 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SEATON asked the Division [of Elections] to consider a possible change on page 3, line 30, regarding the primary election, to change the date from June 1 to June 8, with the provision that the photograph and statement would be received by the department by that date, not just mailed by that date. He further asked the division to look at page 3, line 24 - language regarding the general election - to consider a possible change from July 22 to, perhaps, eight days after the primary election. He said the same comment would apply to the language at the top of page 4.

[9:36:02 AM](#)

CHAIR LYNN expressed a favorable opinion of the bill, but said it needs some changes.

[9:36:36 AM](#)

CHAIR LYNN announced that HB 74 was held over.

[9:37:18 AM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House State Affairs Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.