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Posted-By: Alabama Electronic Overseas Voting Advisory Committee

Meeting-Date: 11/29/2011

Meeting-Time: 1:00 PM

Meeting-Location:

Lieutenant Governor's Conference Room
600 Dexter Aven, 2nd Floor North Wing
Montgomery, AL 36130

Phone-Number: 334-353-7818

Meeting-Type: special/called

Submission-datetime: 11/21/2011 2:08:31 PM

Notice History:

Submitted on 11/21/2011 2:08:31 PM

Notice:

First called meeting of the Alabama Electronic Overseas Voting Advisory Committee pursuant to Act 2011-619.

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Alabama Electronic Overseas Voting Advisory Committee

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Jean Brown, chief legal advisor to Secretary of State Chapman, briefly explained the proposed rules for the electronic transmission of ballots and the emergency rules used for electronic transmission of federal ballots in 2010. Corrine Hurst, Lee County circuit clerk, explained the ballot transmission process during the 2010 election from the local prospective.

The first regular meeting of the Alabama Electronic Overseas Voting Advisory Committee was called to order by the chair, Secretary of State Beth Chapman, at 1:10 p.m on November 29,2011. Secretary Chapman and committee members Blake Dorning, Ben Bowden, Corrine Hurst, Allen Harrell, Bryan Taylor, Adonis Bailey, Bill English, M.N. Cothran, Brenda Smith, and Travis Whaley present. The Honorable Clyde Marsh, Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs, designated Robert Horton to serve as his designee to the committee. The Honorable Randy Davis was absent.

Senator Taylor asked for clarification from the secretary of state regarding the method used to transmit ballots electronically to overseas voters. Ed Packard, Alabama's supervisor of voter registration, explained the process used during the 2010 election to submit ballots to voters and the process the voters used to send the ballots back to the Absentee Election Manager in each county. Packard, Chapman and Hurst answered various questions regarding ballot security and the security of the system itself. Chapman pointed out that the process has already been followed for federal ballots and is mandated by federal law to continue to do so.

Hurst moved to "determine the electronic balloting process is established and possible for conducting absentee balloting by the electronic transmission to the voter." After the motion was seconded and discussed further, the motion was adopted with Judge English abstaining.

The committee then considered the administrative rules for informational purposes. The rules assist in uniting the federal and state ballot for purposes of electronic transmission.

The committee then reviewed Requests for Proposal. Out of 140 requests that were sent to various companies, two were returned. The two for consideration were: 1) a joint venture between ScytI and ES&S, and 2) Everyone Counts. Hurst moved to approve ScytI as the vendor and seconded by Registrar Bailey. After debate, it was moved by Judge Bowden and seconded by English to amend the motion by adding "and request that the ballots be able to be read electronically." After further debate, the amendment was adopted with Chapman abstaining. The original motion was then adopted without further debate, with Chapman and Taylor abstaining.

Jean Brown then asked the committee to review the proposed rules. Chapman stated that if there are any changes to the rules, those changes would be submitted to the committee. If a meeting is needed to change the rules, the committee will be called back to approve those changes.

The committee adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Brandon Walters
Acting Secretary