

2009 HOUSE JUDICIARY

HCR 3009

## 2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HCR 3009

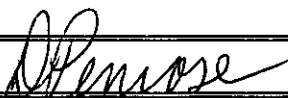
House Judiciary Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 2/4/09

Recorder Job Number: 8683 and 8684

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Chairman DeKrey:** We will open the hearing on HCR 3009.

**Rep. Glen Froseth:** Sponsor, support, explained the bill. During the campaign last fall, I think the two top complaints that I heard were property taxes and can't you do something about all the campaign spending. I thought I would put in a resolution urging Congress to do something about it. The resolution is simple; it's urging Congress to adopt such legislation or propose a constitutional amendment to reduce the length of the presidential campaigns and limit the amount of campaign spending. It seems that the presidential campaign begins the day after the last election four years ago, and continued constantly for the next four years. The two candidates running for president spent about a billion dollars between them. It seems that the public was a little weary of all the campaigning and the negative advertising, etc. We want to send a message to Congress for them to put some limitations on the spending and time it runs. I would like to see it limited to the amount of federal matches available to each candidate, and also like to see them spend it all on newspapers.

**Chairman DeKrey:** Eight years ago, in Bush's first inauguration, and I went to a meeting at some RNC function, they talked about the cost of the presidential campaigns and I don't remember what the figures were, but I can remember they gave us a total figure of what the

election had cost, and then they gave us a total figure for what Americans had spent on pornography during that same period of time, and it was like 6 or 7 times what we spent on presidential elections. That's a fact. Then they told us how much people had spent on Starbucks, which wasn't as high as porn but still higher than election spending.

**Rep. Koppelman:** It says in the bill that it encourages Congress to either adopt legislation or propose a constitutional amendment. I'm curious whether legislation would do it because it's free speech, and I know courts have interpreted that as being political speech is pretty sacred; I wonder if it would take a constitutional amendment to change it. Have you looked into that at all?

**Rep. Glen Froseth:** No, I haven't.

**Rep. Delmore:** A lot of things are beginning to cost more. Did you think that voter turnout hasn't improved very much?

**Rep. Glen Froseth:** I don't know. I don't follow the numbers that closely. I guess that voter turnout in the last election was as high as it's probably been for the last several previous elections; however, it's hard to say whether the length of campaigning was a factor that got people to the polls or the other issues that were taking place in the nation at this particular time period.

**Chairman DeKrey:** Thank you. Further testimony in support. Testimony in opposition or neutral. We will close the hearing. What are the committee's wishes in regard to HCR 3009?

**Rep. Kingsbury:** I move a Do Pass.

**Rep. Hatlestad:** Second.

**9 YES 3 NO 1 ABSENT**

**DO PASS**

**CARRIER: Rep. Kingsbury**

Date: 2/4/09  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3009

**HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken ☒ DP ☐ DNP ☐ DP AS AMEND ☐ DNP AS AMEND

Motion Made By Rep. Kingsbury Seconded By Rep. Hatlestad

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Ch. DeKrey	✓		Rep. Delmore	✓	
Rep. Klemin	✓		Rep. Griffin	✓	
Rep. Boehning	✓		Rep. Vig		✓
Rep. Dahl			Rep. Wolf		✓
Rep. Hatlestad	✓		Rep. Zaiser		✓
Rep. Kingsbury	✓				
Rep. Koppelman	✓				
Rep. Kretschmar	✓				

Total (Yes) 9 No 3

Absent 1

Floor Carrier: Rep. Kingsbury

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3009: Judiciary Committee (Rep. DeKrey, Chairman) recommends DO PASS**  
**(9 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3009 was placed on the**  
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2009 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HCR 3009

## 2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No.3009

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 03/19/09

Recorder Job Number: 11304

Committee Clerk Signature

*Kate Oliver*

Minutes:

Chairman Dever opened the public hearing on HCR 3009. Representative Glen Froseth was there to introduce the resolution.

**Representative Froseth:** Glen Froseth, District 6. There are several key things that your constituents express to you when campaigning, one is limiting the length of elections. Visiting with people it seemed that a resolution was the right thing to do. I had the resolution drafted to alleviate this burden; the campaign should be limited to 9 months. That was the reasoning behind this resolution.

**Senator Dever:** We all sympathize with the intent of this resolution. As we sit here we are all considered to be candidates as occupants of the office so your thoughts might be those formalities that come about to declare yourself the candidate might be shortened up?

**Glen Froseth:** Yes, Mr. Chairman I do and that would be fine. I believe sometimes our campaigns start before the primary in June and we continue that process until midnight the day before the election.

**Senator Nelson:** I am not sure how to phrase this: one party had a candidate selected very early so they weren't subjected to what my party went through. I live on the border and I hear a lot of things that come in from Minnesota. I think both parties would agree that it got long and

very expensive. I am more concerned with how much it cost rather than the length. I think that anything that would happen during the period of us getting educated as to who the actual candidates were was advantageous to somebody. But I am not sure that a constitutional amendment to the U.S. Constitution is the way to go on this.

**Glen Froseth:** I believe the spending could be limited to matching the federal dollars that are available, that would be quite a bit less than was spent in this campaign. One other thing that the last campaign had candidates in the national Senate and I believe that 4 of the candidates were sitting legislators and it takes them away from their work. There are aspects that can be taken into consideration. They are not really doing justice to that position when they are campaigning.

**Senator Horne:** What you are suggesting is that we have congress reduce the limit of a campaign or are you just suggesting that they look at it, correct?

**Glen Froseth:** Yes, leave those decisions to congress, I just feel that the comments that I heard in my campaign was that the process takes too long. There is some interest lost in a situation like that.

**Senator Dever:** I wonder with the separation of powers if the legislative branch can limit the length of time that the executive branch can campaign by legislation or if it would have to be a constitutional amendment.

**Senator Horne:** If I remember the system in England or Canada, they don't even have scheduled elections they have parties and whoever is in power and if there is a challenge to them and there is a lack of confidence then they call an election and they only have a short time to campaign. If there is a lack of confidence then they schedule an election. Is that a possibility?

**Glenn Froseth:** No I don't think so. I don't like that system.

## 2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No.3009

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 03/19/09

Recorder Job Number: 11664

Committee Clerk Signature

*Katie Oliver*

Minutes:

Senator Cook made a motion for a do not pass with a second by Senator Nelson. There was no further discussion and the motion passed 5-0 with Senator Dever carrying the bill to the floor.

Date: 4-2-09  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

Carria  
Dever

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3009

Senate Government and Veteran's Affairs

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken

Do Not Pass

Motion Made By

Cool

Seconded By

Nelson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Dick Dever	X		Dwight Cook	X	
Dave Oehlke	X		Carolyn Nelson	X	
Robert M. Horne	X				

Total Yes

5

No

0

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
April 2, 2009 1:29 p.m.

**Module No: SR-56-5994**  
**Carrier: Dever**  
**Insert LC: . Title: .**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3009: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
HCR 3009 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.