

We wanted to provide a quick update on activity in DC this past week and provide a summary of federal activity before the close of the 111th Congress. For a complete review of legislative activity and federal agency action on issues of interest to Secretaries and Lt. Governor's, please check out the DC Connections page at [www.nass.org](http://www.nass.org)

### **Commissioner Gracia Hillman resigns from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission**

EAC Commissioner Gracia Hillman announced her [resignation](#) at the EAC public meeting yesterday to be effective December 10, 2010. Commissioner Hillman was one of the four original commissioners confirmed in 2003. Her term officially expired in December 2009, but without a replacement identified, she remained at the EAC. Her departure will leave the four-member bi-partisan commission with only two members, the Hon. Donetta Davidson (Chair) and the Hon. Gineen Bresso, both Republican. Per the Help America Vote Act, any vote taken by the EAC must pass with a majority of three members. President Obama has announced his intent to nominate Tom Hicks (currently majority elections counsel for House Admin) to fill Hillman's seat. He has not announced his intent to nominate a replacement for the position vacated by Rosemary Rodriguez in February 2009.

### **Congressional action** **Elections**

Earlier this week, NASS met with staff at the House Administration Committee and Senate Rules Committee. House Administration and Senate Rules are the congressional committees with jurisdictional interest in federal elections. It was announced today that House Administration will be Chaired by Rep. Dan Lungren (R-CA). House Democrats have not announced when they will be selecting their committee leadership. Roll Call reported yesterday that Rep. Robert Brady (D-PA) is expected to be named Ranking Member. Senate Rules Committee staff has said we should know more in the next few weeks regarding the leadership and membership of that committee. Agendas and priorities for these committees won't be discussed until the leadership is in place. However both House and Senate staff indicated that hearings on MOVE implementation should be expected. There were a couple of House bills that passed in the 111th Congress but did not pass the Senate. Those bills will die at the conclusion of the 111th Congress.

### **Notarizations**

The Judiciary Committees in the House and Senate had jurisdiction over the Interstate Recognition of Notarizations Act (IRON) Act. Roll Call reported that Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) is expected to chair this committee and Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) is expected to serve as ranking member. Congress did not challenge the pocket veto of the IRON Act. Leadership of Senate Judiciary in the 112th Congress has not been reported.

### **Business Services**

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC) had jurisdiction over Incorporation Transparency (S.569) in the Senate. In the House, the issue (H.R.6098) fell under the jurisdiction of House Financial Services where it was reported in Roll Call that the chairmanship race is between Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) and Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA) with Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) expected as ranking member. S. 569 and H.R. 6098 will both die at the conclusion of the 111th Congress. Leadership of HSGAC in the 112th Congress has not been reported.

### **FY 2011 Federal Funding**

The federal fiscal year began on October 1, 2010. However, Congress had not passed the necessary FY2011 Appropriations bills. Therefore, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) which funded the

federal government at FY2010 levels until today (December 3). As of last night, Congress passed a new CR which will continue the FY2010 funding levels until Friday, December 18, 2010.