

**MINUTES OF THE
BUSINESS AND LABOR INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 18, 2005 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W125 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Scott K. Jenkins, Senate Chair
Rep. Stephen D. Clark, House Chair
Sen. Thomas V. Hatch
Sen. John W. Hickman
Sen. Ed Mayne
Sen. Michael G. Waddoups
Rep. J. Stuart Adams
Rep. Jackie Biskupski
Rep. David Clark
Rep. Carl W. Duckworth
Rep. James A. Dunnigan
Rep. Craig A. Frank
Rep. Todd E. Kiser

Rep. Curtis Oda
Rep. Gordon E. Snow
Rep. Scott L. Wyatt

Members Absent:

Sen. Gene Davis
Rep. Neil A. Hansen
Rep. Michael T. Morley

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark B. Steinagel, Policy Analyst
Ms. Patricia Owen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of related materials can be found at www.leg.utah.gov or by contacting the committee secretary, Tracey Fredman, at 538-1032. A recording of the meeting is available from the committee secretary.

1. Committee Business

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Steinagel distributed a memo, "Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Violation Statistics," provided by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

MOTION: Rep. Frank moved to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Russell Skousen, Executive Director, Department of Commerce, gave an update on the State Construction Registry (Registry).

Mr. John Young, attorney representing the Utah Subcontractors Council, commented on a lawsuit related to the Registry.

Mr. Dana Farmer, President, Suppliers Association, commented on payment issues with the Registry that create problems for suppliers and contractors.

2. Health Insurance Mandate Review

Mr. Steinagel reviewed "Review of Mandatory Obligations on Health Insurers: Status of Review" and "Review of Mandatory Obligations on Health Insurers: Statutory Language" contained in the packet.

Dr. Jeffery Holly, Research Analyst, Utah Insurance Department, commented on the mandate review currently being conducted.

3. Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool Report

Ms. Tomi Ossana, Executive Director, HIPUtah, distributed and reviewed "Utah Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool (HIPUtah)." She gave a brief history and description of HIPUtah including an explanation of HIPUtah's eligibility criteria in the statute.

Mr. Neil Gooch, Deputy Commissioner, Insurance Department, commented that the Legislature has funded much of HIPUtah's budgetary needs with one-time money.

Mr. Derik Brown, Attorney Generals Office, addressed issues raised by committee discussion.

4. Affordable Health Insurance

Rep. Eric Hutchings discussed his search for solutions to affordable health insurance problems for large and small businesses.

Ms. Owen discussed options related to group purchasing agreements by employers.

Mr. Gooch, Mr. John Braun, and Ms. Suzette Green-Wright spoke to the issue on behalf of the Department of Insurance.

Mr. Brad Kuhnhausen, Senior Vice President, Aim Administration, commented that association plans may not be the best solution because, generally, the people who want to join are those paying more than the rate of the associated plan; and when they join, claim costs rise, causing the premium rates to increase.

Mr. Craig Bickmore, Executive Director, Utah Automobile Dealers Association, said that the success of the Association's health insurance trust has been in keeping the big pool together.

5. Sunset and Repeal Date Reviews

A. Electronic Commerce Dedicated Fees

Ms. Owen reviewed and commented on "Sunset Review: Section 31A-3-104, Electronic Commerce Dedicated Fee" contained in the packet.

Neil Gooch distributed and reviewed "Section 63-55-103 Review of Section 31A-3-104 and Section 31A-23a-415."

B. Assessment on Title Insurance Agencies or Title Insurers

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Mr. Steve Crawley, Bonneville Title, Utah Land Title Association and Acting Chair, Utah Land Title Association Legislative Committee, said they do not oppose the extension of the statute.

MOTION: Sen. Waddoups moved that the assessment on title insurance agencies or title insurers be reauthorized for an additional five years, and that the electronic commerce dedicated fees repeal date be removed so that the e-commerce fee operates as an ongoing program. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hatch absent for the vote.

6. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Hickman moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hatch was absent for the vote.

Chair Clark adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.