

## **INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS**

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel House Building, Suite W210 \* Salt Lake City, Utah 84114 \* (801) 538-1032

#### LEGISLATIVE INTERIM MEETINGS

Meetings were held October 20, 2010 or as noted.

## **Administrative Rules Review Committee**

September 20, 2010

## **Duration of Contact Lens Prescriptions**

Reviewed Utah law which specifies that contact lens prescriptions are valid for two years unless there is a documented medical reason for requiring more frequent prescriptions. However, some providers reportedly require patients to obtain new prescriptions every year. The Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing and the Utah Optometric Association told the committee that they would urge their respective licensees and association members to comply with the state law.

## Use of the Phrase "Liberally Construed" in Administrative Rules

Requested that legislative committees study the use of the phrase "liberally construed" in the administrative rules of state agencies they oversee. The committee also recommended that these committees recommend whether the state agencies should continue with the use of the phrase in their rules or repeal them. Committee staff reported on the legislative committees' responses and was directed by the chairs to coordinate with a House committee that has been directed by House leadership to review the issue.

October 18, 2010

## **Charges for Ambulance Services**

Received presentations from the Unified Fire Authority and the Department of Health regarding rates charged for ambulance services and how administrative rules and orders of the Department of Health are used to set the rates. The Department of Health agreed to rewrite its rules governing the rates charged by ambulance services to remove confusion and provide more current rate information.

## **Duration of Contact Lens Prescriptions**

Received a report from the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing and the Utah Optometric Association on their efforts since the September 20 committee meeting to remind their respective licensees and association members to comply with state law which states that contact lens prescriptions last two years unless the provider documents a specific medical reason for requiring more frequent prescriptions.

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## **Rules Governing Solar Photovoltaic Contractors**

Received information that the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing was recently informed by the Attorney General's Office that the division's administrative rule relating to the scope of practice of solar photovoltaic contractor licensees conflicted with state statute. The division informed the committee that it is rewriting the rule to eliminate the conflict.

Chairs: Rep. Curtis Oda / Sen. Howard A. Stephenson Staff: Art L. Hunsaker (Policy Analyst) / Susan Creager Allred (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Secretary)

## **Business and Labor**

## **Business Entity Mergers**

Received information regarding whether state law currently allows a corporation to merge with other business entities. The committee was told that the current practice of the Division of Corporations is to accept these filings.

Action: Approved as a committee bill, "Business Entity Mergers," which modifies the Utah Revised Business Corporation Act to address mergers and clarify that a corporation may merge with other business entities.

#### **Changes to the State Construction Code**

Received information from the Uniform Building Code Commission and the public regarding proposed changes to the State Construction Code. The five areas of changes include: (1) update to the current National Fire Prevention Association referenced standards; (2) local amendments for fire sprinkler requirements in the town of Brian Head; (3) adoption of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC); (4) amendments to the 2009 IECC energy provisions to allow other means of complying with new energy requirements; and (5) amendments to the 2009 IECC energy provisions for log home residences.

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Pages 1-7 Summaries of Legislative Meetings
Page 7 Legislative Audit Reports Released

## **Changes to the State Fire Code**

Received information from the Fire Prevention Board regarding proposed changes to the State Fire Code. The changes recommended included school fire drill procedures and the use of anti-freeze in residential sprinkling systems.

\*\*Action: Voted that legislation be drafted to implement in legislative format the proposed changes to the State Fire Code recommended by the Fire Prevention Code.

### Classification of Workers

Received a progress report from the Worker Classification Working Group.

Action: Approved as a committee bill, "Worker Classification Coordinated Enforcement," which modifies labor provisions to address worker classification and related issues of enforcement.

## Corporation Action Without Shareholder Meeting

Received information on the effects of current state law regarding actions taken by a corporation without a shareholder meeting.

#### Fire Prevention and Fireworks

Received a report from the State Fire Marshall regarding enforcement of state laws governing the use of certain fireworks. The State Fire Marshal explained the difficulty in determining what constitutes a legal vs. an illegal firework device.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, "Fire Prevention and Fireworks Act Amendments," which modifies definitions, repeals certain testing and approval requirements, and modifies times for sale and discharge of fireworks.

Chairs: Rep. James A. Dunnigan / Sen. John L. Valentine Staff: Bryant R. Howe (Assistant Director) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Amanda K. Majers (Secretary)

### **Education**

## **Performance-Based Compensation Pilot Program**

Conducted a sunset review and received a report from the State Board of Education on a pilot program that awards grants to selected districts to implement performance-based compensation plans. The board presented data collected to this point in the planning phase.

## Alternative Scheduling to Increase Efficiency in Public Schools

Received a proposal from a citizen on adopting a year-round school schedule that could use public resources more effectively.

## **Extended Day Kindergarten**

Conducted a sunset review of the Voluntary Extended-Day Kindergarten program. The committee received a recommendation from the State Board of Education to reauthorize the program.

## School Funding and Equalization

Received a presentation from the State Board of Education on (Continued next column)

concepts that the board recently adopted related to equalizing funding for students. The concepts include a progressive recapture of certain property tax collections from the Voted Leeway Program, freezing the minimum basic levy, consolidating certain property tax levies, and authorizing a state property tax levy for charter school funding.

Chairs: Rep. Gregory H. Hughes / Sen. Howard A. Stephenson Staff: Allison M. Nicholson (Policy Analyst) / Constance C. Steffen (Policy Analyst) / Angela Oakes Stallings (Attorney) / Glenda S. Whitney (Secretary)

## Government Operations and Political Subdivisions

## **Bonding Requirements for State Officials**

Received presentations from a member of the House of Representatives, the Division of Risk Management, and the Division of Finance on bonding for state officials. By statute, certain state officials are required to be covered by a surety bond of a set amount, usually in the \$5,000 to \$30,000 range. A state risk management policy of \$10 million covers other state officials and state employees who are not required to be bonded.

**Action**: Voted to have committee staff open a bill file to address bonding requirements for state, school district, and charter school officers and employees.

## Fee-Based Services by the Department of Administrative Services

Received a briefing from the Department of Administrative Services on the implementation of H.B. 402, "Department of Administrative Services Modifications," which passed during the 2010 General Session and allows the department to operate certain divisions within the department as internal service fund agencies.

## **Local Elections With Unopposed Candidates**

Received a presentation from committee staff and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on draft legislation that allows a local government to cancel a local election if each candidate is unopposed and no other proposition is on the ballot.

Action: Approved as a committee bill, "Local Election Amendments," which allows a local government to cancel a local election if each candidate is unopposed and no other proposition is on the ballot. The bill also provides for notice of the cancellation.

## Per Diem and Travel Expenses for Government Boards

Received a committee staff presentation on a draft bill concerning per diem and travel expenses and including primary per diem and travel expense language.

Action: Amended and approved as a committee bill, "Per Diem and Travel Modifications," which standardizes language describing per diem and travel expenses for members of certain boards and clarifies per diem and travel expense language.

## Sale of State Property—Approval Process

Received a presentation from the Division of Facilities Construction and Management and the Office of the Attorney General on the need to notify the Legislature when the state disposes of real property with an estimated value of more than \$500,000 or if the real property is of historical significance. The presenters asked for the committee's input on how the approval might be obtained.

**Action:** Voted to have committee staff open a bill file to provide a review process for the sale of state property similar to the process in the State Settlement Agreement Act.

### **Utah Procurement Code Revisions**

Received a report from representatives of the Office of the Attorney General and the Division of Purchasing on the progress of a working group to update the Utah Procurement Code. The working group created a table to track the potential changes using a model code and examples from other states.

Chairs: Rep. Craig A. Frank / Rep. Fred R Hunsaker / Sen. Peter C. Knudson Staff: Benjamin N. Christensen (Policy Analyst) / Joseph T. Wade (Policy Analyst) / Victoria Ashby (Attorney) / Emily R. Brown (Attorney) / Wendy Bangerter (Secretary)

## **Health and Human Services**

### **Controlled Substance Database**

Received a report from the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL) on an interstate compact for data sharing by state prescription drug monitoring programs developed by the Council of State Governments. DOPL spoke in favor of establishing an agreement with other states.

**Action:** The committee directed committee staff to explore several issues raised by DOPL.

#### **Healthcare Reform**

Received a presentation from an insurance agent on how a high deductible health plan coupled with a medical reimbursement fund allowed under the IRS Code can be used to reduce the cost of health insurance coverage and increase the quality of the coverage.

## **Licensing of Non-Medicaid Nursing Care Facility Beds**

Conducted a sunset review of the statute prohibiting the licensing of a new nursing care facility if the facility will rely on Medicare for over 49% of its revenue.

**Action:** Recommended the Legislature extend for five years the sunset date for Section 26-21-23 which concerns the licensing of non-Medicaid nursing care facility beds.

## **Medicaid Autism Waiver**

Received a report from the Department of Health in response to H.B. 184, "Medicaid Autism Waiver," which passed in the 2010 General Session and requires that the department develop a range of options for a Medicaid waiver to cover autism services. If the Legislature would like the department to request a waiver from the federal government, the

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# department recommends an option that would phase in coverage over three years for 100 of the estimated 1,000 children ages two to six who are eligible for services.

## Medigap Supplemental Health Insurance

Received a report from the Department of Insurance on rate setting for Medigap policies.

## Pharmacy Benefits Manager Act

Considered a revised version of draft legislation, "Pharmacy Benefits Manager Act," which requires a pharmacy benefits manager to provide itemized statements to health benefit plans for whom it works.

Chairs: Rep. Paul Ray / Sen. D. Chris Buttars
Staff: Mark D. Andrews (Policy Analyst) / Thomas R. Vaughn (Attorney) / Cathy J. Dupont
(Attorney) / Joy L. Miller (Administrative Assistant)

## **Health System Reform Task Force**

## **Prescription Drug Markets**

Received a presentation from BidRx, an Internet-based company, on how it connects sellers and purchasers of prescription drugs.

## Payment and Delivery Reform Demonstration Projects

Received an update from HealthInsight on the development and implementation of payment and delivery reform demonstration projects for diabetes care, pediatric care, and maternity care.

#### **Pharmaceuticals**

Received a presentation from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America on the development, manufacturing, distribution, and health plan reimbursement of pharmaceuticals.

## **Task Force Workgroups**

Received reports from the Cost Containment Workgroup and the Implementation Oversight Workgroup on their activities.

#### Utah Health Insurance Exchange

Received a report from the Office of Consumer Health Services advising that the Utah Health Insurance Exchange will complete its processing of 3,000 applications for employees of small employers by October 22, and that employees will be able to begin selecting plans from the exchange November 12.

The exchange is working with five employers who will be part of a pilot program for coverage of large employer groups beginning January 1, 2011. In response to the task force, the Utah Defined Contribution Risk Adjuster Board reported that it will consider again at its next meeting whether to extend the enrollment window for small employers with January 1 renewal dates.

Chairs: Speaker David Clark / Sen. Wayne L. Niederhauser Staff: Mark D. Andrews (Policy Analyst) / Cathy J. Dupont (Attorney) / Wendy Bangerter (Secretary)

## Judiciary, Law Enforcement, and Criminal Justice

### **Custodial Interference Enforcement**

Discussed the challenges of enforcement of H.B. 197, "Custodial Interference Amendments," enacted in the 2010 General Session. Court orders lacking specificity on parent time and the difficulty of defining "intent" were cited as two of the reasons why law enforcement response has not been at a level some parents have wished.

## **Death Penalty Procedures Amendments**

Discussed proposed legislation, "Death Penalty Procedures Amendments," which clarifies when a petitioner has a right to funded counsel for successive petitions and sets limits for a stay of execution for successive post-conviction petitions.

## **DUI Report**

Received a report from the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice which indicated that in CY 2009, Utah had the lowest rate of DUI-related fatalities in the nation at 16.4 percent. Additionally, it was reported that there were 15,285 arrests in FY 2010, 398 fewer than in FY 2009.

## **Housing Inmates in County Jails**

Received a report from the Utah Department of Corrections indicating that the 2010 daily incarceration rate for an inmate is \$76.99, down from \$79.31 last year. The state contracts with the different counties to house 1,240 male inmates and 52 female inmates at a rate of \$55.71 per inmate per day.

### **Indigent Defense Act**

Received a report from the Utah Association of Counties concerning the need for state funding to assist in providing criminal defense services. It was reported that Utah is one of the few states that require counties to provide criminal defense services for the indigent without assistance from other revenue sources.

## **Recidivism Reduction Plan**

Received a report from the Utah Department of Corrections who, in collaboration with the State Board of Education and the State Board of Regents, has been required by state law to develop a recidivism reduction plan. The state issued a request for information and has developed curriculum to teach male and female inmates marketable jobs skills.

#### Statutorily Required Reports

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, "Statutorily Required Reports Amendments," which expands the discretion of the interim committee in requiring and scheduling statutorily required reports.

Chairs: Sen. Jon J. Greiner / Rep. Douglas C. Aagard / Rep. Lorie D. Fowlke Staff: Jerry D. Howe (Policy Analyst) / Stewart E. Smith (Policy Analyst/Spe Proj Mgr) / Susan Creager Allred (Attorney) / Esther Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Amanda K. Majers (Secretary)

## Legislative Information Technology Steering Committee

October 21, 2010

## **Legislative Technology Sinking Fund**

Discussed the creation of a Legislative Technology Sinking Fund to pay for technology needs that apply to the Legislature as a whole.

## Legislative Telephone System

Reviewed options for the legislative phone system.

Chairs: Rep. Bradley G. Last / Sen. Curtis S. Bramble Staff: Thomas R. Vaughn (Attorney) / Mark J Allred (IT Manager) / Chelsea Barrett (Secretary)

## Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

#### Action Plan for Public Lands and Education Initiative

Discussed how the high percentage of federal land ownership in the West affects states' ability to fund education by limiting property tax revenue, limiting natural resources royalties, and impairing the ability of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration to manage its lands.

## **Department of Environmental Quality Boards**

Discussed potential legislation modifying membership provisions and executive secretary provisions related to boards within the Department of Environmental Quality.

## Department of Natural Resources Water Rights Study

Received a report from the Department of Natural Resources on its study of water rights issues and received a report on potential legislation.

## Energy Advisor Report & Legislative Review of State Energy Policy

Received a report from the governor's energy advisor on the status and development of the state's energy resources and the energy advisor's activities. The committee also reviewed the state energy policy.

## Uintah Basin Air Quality Standards' Impact on the Petroleum Industry

Received a report from the Western Energy Alliance on possible ozone non-attainment status in the Uintah Basin and how non-attainment would affect economic activity.

Chairs: Rep. Roger E. Barrus / Sen. Dennis E. Stowell Staff: J Brian Allred (Policy Analyst) / Christopher R. Parker (Attorney) / Joy L. Miller (Administrative Assistant)

## **Public Utilities and Technology**

### **Broadband Deployment in Utah**

Received from the Governor's Office of Economic

Development and the Automated Geographic Reference

Center a report on the state's plan to study, map, and make

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recommendations for deploying broadband statewide. The project is coordinated and managed with the Utah Public Service Commission, and is partially funded by a federal grant of \$5.2 million.

## **Energy Cost Recovery & Renewable Energy**

Received a presentation from the REDCO energy company on broadening the current utility statute definitions to include a "category of resource," which means wind, solar, coal, biofuel, geothermal, natural gas, hydroelectric, and diesel power.

## National Electrical Code & Electric Service Connections

Received from Rocky Mountain Power's electrical engineering division information regarding its "Six - State Electrical Service Requirements" draft manual in response to discussion about why the company required electrical contractors to meet additional electrical service connections not included in the state-adopted National Electrical Code.

Chairs: Rep. Michael E. Noel / Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart Staff: Richard C. North (Policy Analyst) / Christopher R. Parker (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Secretary)

## **Retirement and Independent Entities**

## Audit of Long-Term Actuarial Projections Related to the Utah State Retirement Systems

Received a presentation from Cheiron, Inc., an independent auditor, who audited long-term actuarial projections provided by Gabriel Roeder Smith & Company in November 2009 and the actuarial analyses of S.B. 43 and S.B. 63 from the 2010 General Session (see above). The auditors agreed with the substantive results of the valuation, assumptions, calculation of contribution rates, and funded status in the long-term projection report. The audit suggested changing provisions in the hybrid Tier II plan of S.B. 63 to ensure its sustainability over the long-term if investment returns are lower than expected. The audit also provided several other findings and recommendations for consideration.

**Action:** Accepted the Audit of Long-Term Actuarial Projections report by Cheiron, Inc. and authorized payment for the report.

Chairs: Rep. Don L. Ipson / Sen. Daniel R. Liljenquist Staff: Benjamin N. Christensen (Policy Analyst) / J. Daniel Schoenfeld (Fiscal Analyst) / Cathy J. Dupont (Attorney) / Shannon C. Halverson (Attorney) / Glenda S. Whitney (Secretary)

## **Revenue and Taxation**

#### **Income Mobility**

Received a report prepared by Utah Foundation and the Tax Commission on income mobility in Utah. The report indicates that Utah has a relatively high degree of economic mobility and that Utah has less income inequality than most states and the nation as a whole.

## Legislation Requested by the Utah State Tax Commission

Action: Approved as committee bills:

- "Severance Tax Amendments," which clarifies that certain government entities are not subject to the severance tax.
- "Assessment, Collections, and Refunds Act Amendments," which clarifies that the Assessment, Collections, and Refunds Act does not apply to the Property Tax Act, Tax Equivalent Property Act, or the Privilege Tax Chapter.
- "Determination of State Taxable Income," which addresses the determination of state taxable income derived from Utah sources.
- "Corporate Franchise and Income Tax Amendments," which addresses the definition of "common ownership," repeals provisions related to certain distributions by corporations from depletion, addresses the circumstances under which certain receipts, rents, royalties, or sales are considered to be in this state, and addresses intercompany transactions for purposes of apportionment of income to the state.

## **Petroleum Industry and Gas Taxes**

Received presentations from committee staff, the Tax Commission, and Department of Natural Resources on the petroleum industry, including the existing gas tax as well as current and future oil and gas production.

## **Property Tax**

Considered draft legislation, "Eminent Domain Amendments," which establishes a property's assessed value as the minimum value to be paid when a property is taken through eminent domain.

## **Reports Required by Statute**

Received a statutorily required report from the Tax Commission on federal tax changes affecting state revenues and from the Governor's Office of Economic Development on certain tax credits.

## **School Funding and Property Taxes**

Considered draft legislation, "Education Funding Amendments," which partially equalizes school funding by replacing some local school property tax revenues with state sales tax revenues

Chairs: Rep. Todd E. Kiser / Sen. J. Stuart Adams
Staff: Bryant R. Howe (Assistant Director) / Phillip V. Dean (Policy Analyst) / Robert H. Rees
(Attorney) / Rebecca L. Rockwell (Attorney) / Chelsea Barrett (Secretary)

## **Transportation**

#### Vehicle Accident Statistics

Received a report from the Department of Transportation and Department of Public Safety on crash statistics. From 2000 to 2009 the number of traffic fatalities has moved downward, with a total decrease of 34%. There have been 175 traffic fatalities so far in 2010.

## **DUI Report**

Received a report from the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice which indicated that in CY 2009, Utah had the lowest rate of DUI-related fatalities in the nation at 16.4 percent. Additionally, it was reported that there were 15,285 arrests in FY 2010, 398 fewer than in FY 2009.

## **High Occupancy Toll Lane Customer Information**

Action: Approved as a committee bill, "High Occupancy Toll Lane Customer Information," which classifies certain electronic toll information received or collected by the Department of Transportation as a private record under the Government Records Access Management Act.

## **Operation of Bicycles on Roadways**

Discussed a proposal to allow bicyclists to ride in the right-hand lane of the roadway rather than riding as near as practicable to the right-hand edge of the road way. The proposal would also allow a vehicle to pass another vehicle, including a bicyclist, that is proceeding in the same direction at a speed that is at least 15 miles per hour less than the normal speed of traffic within a no-passing zone.

## State Highway System Changes

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, "State Highway System Modifications," which amends the description of four state highways.

## **Traffic Accident Management**

Discussed a proposal that requires an operator of a vehicle involved in a traffic accident to activate the vehicle's hazard lights and establishes penalties for an operator of a vehicle that causes a serious bodily injury or death while violating provisions relating to approaching an incident on the roadway.

Chairs: Rep. Julie Fisher / Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell Staff: Leif G. Elder (Policy Analyst) / Shannon C. Halverson (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Secretary)

## **Utah Tax Review Commission**

October 21, 2010

#### **Income Tax Revisions**

Reviewed, but did not adopt, draft legislation to address procedures related to the determination of domicile for individual income tax purposes and the taxation of a pass through entity.

#### State and Local Sales and Use Tax

Received a draft working group report regarding several issues surrounding the establishment of a uniform statewide sales and use tax rate.

Chairs: Mr. M. Keith Prescott / Mr. David J. Crapo
Staff: Leif G. Elder (Policy Analyst) / Phillip V. Dean (Policy Analyst) / Bryant R. Howe
(Assistant Director) / Robert H. Rees (Attorney) / Rebecca L. Rockwell (Attorney) /
Chelsea Barrett (Secretary

## **Utah Waterways Task Force**

September 30, 2010

## **Cooperative Fish Management Units**

Discussed proposed legislation creating cooperative fish management units modeled after some provisions of cooperative wildlife management units.

## Funding Walk-in Access

Received a presentation from the Division of Wildlife Resources on providing additional walk-in access in 2011 and on proposed funding sources, including existing restricted dollars, new federal grant dollars, and a portion of the current \$300,000 appropriation.

## Walk-in Access and Stream Access Development

Visited potential walk-in access sites on the Duchesne River.

Chairs: Rep. Melvin R. Brown / Sen. Dennis E. Stowell Staff: J Brian Allred (Policy Analyst) / Christopher R. Parker (Attorney) / Joy L. Miller (Administrative Assistant)

## Workforce Services and Community and Economic Development

## **Digitizing State Collections**

Received an update on the Department of Community and Culture's ongoing efforts to digitize the state's historical collections.

## **Economic Mobility in Utah**

Received a report from the Utah Foundation on how changes in skill level, education, and work situation affect income and economic mobility in Utah.

### **Motion Picture Incentives: Funding**

Discussed whether to make funding of incentives, in the form of tax credits, for motion picture productions ongoing and whether to increase the ceiling on incentives granted to motion picture companies filming in the state.

## Motion Picture Incentives: Avoiding Pitfalls

Discussed how Utah avoids the challenges experienced by several states that have also provided incentives to motion picture companies for filming in their states.

#### Motion Picture Incentives: Return on Investment

Discussed the dollar value generated for every dollar expended on motion picture incentives administered by the Governor's Office of Economic Development and how the return on incentives is calculated.

Chairs: Rep. Steven R. Mascaro / Sen. Mark B. Madsen Staff: Art L. Hunsaker (Policy Analyst) / James L. Wilson (Attorney) / Glenda S. Whitney (Secretary)

# Legislative Audit Subcommittee Releases Three Repor

On October 21, 20010 the Legislative Audit Subcommittee released the following performance audit reports:

## Audit of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (DABC)

The DABC commission has habitually violated the state's open meeting laws and some commissioners have potential conflicts of interest that have not been adequately disclosed. Additionally, the DABC has experienced necessary growth in retail stores, but has done so without an adequate business plan that considers all alternatives to building and the placement of stores. While retail operations of the DABC stores are profitable for the state, store productivity could be improved.

The report also addresses the need to formalize policies and procedures in the licensing and compliance section.

Finally, the report suggests some licensing issues the Legislature could consider.

## **Audit of Charter School Oversight**

The State Charter School Board has not established clear standards to evaluate schools' financial performance. The board needs to adopt policies that further define how its disciplinary and termination processes will proceed.

The audit found that a small number of charter schools are struggling to adhere to some financial best practices. The State Charter School Board should enhance its financial oversight by requiring training for charter school board members, enforcing financial reporting requirements, and further utilizing audited financial statements.

The audit also found that acceptable uses of charter school revolving loan funds need to be further defined. Loan requests for these uses should be prioritized by the Charter School Revolving Subaccount Committee as allowed by statute.

## **Audit of School District Travel Accountability**

The audit shows that total travel expenditures amount to less than one percent of the total annual expenditures in five sampled school districts. The report also shows that most school administrators and boards in the sample group have started to cut travel expenditures because of difficult budget times.

The report recommends that districts review their number and type of association memberships and determine if continued involvement is appropriate in light of current budget cuts.

Additionally, Utah's involvement in the Chinese Bridge Delegation travel program is higher than other states, and the districts should review their level of involvement in this program.

Finally, recommendations were made to the Utah State Office of Education to standardize the reporting requirements so that reporting is consistent and comparisons can be made among districts.

Chairs: President Michael G. Waddoups / Speaker David Clark Staff: John Schaff (Legislative Auditor General)

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## **ВЕТИВИ SERVICE REQUESTED**

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Next Interim Day—November 17, 2010