

# Potential Study Topics - 2012

## Political Subdivisions Interim Committee

On March 29, 2012, the Legislative Management Committee (LMC) met and assigned items from S.J.R. 3, Joint Resolution - Master Study, to the interim committees for study. Since the Political Subdivisions Interim Committee had only four items, the LMC requested the Political Subdivisions Interim Committee to take additional study items from the lists of items assigned to the Business Labor Interim Committee and the Government Operations Interim Committee.

### Questions for committee members:

1. What items from the lists below do committee members have an interest in studying?
2. Do committee members have additional study topics that should be added to this year's study list?

### Political Subdivisions

50. Definition of Rural - to study the definition of "rural" as it pertains to the classification of counties (H.B. 220) **(Knudson)**.
57. Municipal Ethics Act - to study revisions to the Municipal Ethics Act **(Valentine)**.
88. Constable Amendments - to study jurisdictional issues related to constables **(Perry)**.
167. Sovereign Citizen Liens - study of sovereign citizen liens **(Greenwood)**.

### Business and Labor

2. Alcohol Amendments - to study whether to modify the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act to change the number of available retail licenses (H.B. 270) **(Froerer)**.
3. Alcohol Law Revisions - to study the need to make revisions to allow reasonable access to alcohol (S.B. 75) **(Romero)**.
4. Alcohol Licensing - to study the definition of "premises" for purposes of an alcohol license **(Valentine)**.
5. Alcohol Regulation and Policy - to study the regulatory environment for alcohol policy, including potential structural changes (H.B. 184) **(Litvack)**.
8. Building Code Changes - to study changes to the commercial and residential building codes (H.B. 262) **(Cox)**.
9. Businesses that Serve Alcohol - to study ways to create a pro business environment regarding establishments that serve alcohol, and whether to remove the "zion curtain" wall requirement **(Doughty)**.
10. Condominium Amendments - to study issues related to condominiums, including the role of the property rights ombudsman and mediation (1st Sub. H.B. 56)

**(Litvack).**

11. Definition of Incidental Practice in Administrative Rules Governing Architects and Engineers - to study whether to exclude certain subsections of administrative rules regarding the definition of "incidental practice" in the Architect Licensing Act Rule and the Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors Licensing Act Rule from reauthorization (H.B. 335) **(Cox)**.

12. Disaster Recovery Service Lien - to study whether to provide a lien on behalf of a provider of disaster recovery services on proceeds payable from an insurance company that covers damages caused by a disaster, the requirements for claiming a lien, the notice of a lien to an insurance company, and lien enforcement (S.B. 288) **(Urquhart)**.

13. Employment Discrimination - to study the importance of economic development measures related to employment discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or political speech or activity related to employment (S.B. 51) **(Romero)**.

14. Injured Worker Benefits - to study ways to coordinate the benefits paid by workers' compensation and a group health insurance plan **(Duplicate of Item #154, p. 3, S.B. 130) (Mayne)**.

15. Liquor Sampling - to study ways to provide for the sampling of liquor by a retail licensee under certain circumstances (1st Sub. S.B. 119) **(Valentine)**.

16. Payday Loan Disputes - to study whether to require local forums for settling payday loan disputes **(McAdams)**.

17. Product Liability - to study whether a manufacturer should be held liable for a product if the claimant fails to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant was the actual manufacturer of the actual product that caused the harm (H.B. 413) **(McKiff)**.

18. References to Gold and Precious Metals in the Utah Code - to study the manner in which gold and other precious metals are addressed in Title 13, Chapter 32a, Pawnshop and Secondhand Merchandise Transaction Information Act **(Doughty and Seelig)**.

19. Regulation of Certain Businesses - to study whether gold-for-cash businesses, pawn shops, and coin dealers should be regulated **(Doughty)**.

20. Scope of Practice - to study and review the scope of practice for occupations in the health care field **(Newbold)**.

21. Subcontractors - to study and review concerns regarding subcontractors not following laws and good practice **(Mayne)**.

22. Unincorporated Business Entities - to study uniform laws regarding unincorporated business entities **(Hillyard)**.

92. DVD and Blu-ray Sales to Minors When Original Content Rating is Altered - to study DVD and Blu-ray sales to minors in situations where the rating given to a film is changed from the theatrical "R" rated version to a "Not Rated" version for home video release, which frequently contain adult content not included in the "R" version **(Kiser)**.

100. Pornographic Material on Cable - to study the distribution of pornographic material through cable television **(Valentine)**.

154. Workers' Compensation Coordination of Benefits - to study coordination of benefits between workers' compensation and other insurance coverage to assist claimants in getting their bills paid in a timely manner **(Duplicate of Item #14, p. 2, S.B. 130) (Mayne)**.

163. Alcohol Regulation - to study the privatization of the Department of

Alcoholic Beverage Control (**Frank**).

166. Study of moving the Division of Securities into the Department of Insurance (**Bird**).

168. Study a pilot program to allow Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to open some stores on holidays (**Arent**).

170. Pest control regulations (**Butterfield**).

## **Government Operations**

45. Absentee Ballot Deadlines - to study whether the deadline for absentee ballot postmarks should be adjusted in light of service cutbacks at the post office (**Powell**).

46. Anonymous Campaign Contributions - to study whether to prohibit anonymous campaign contributions and how a candidate should handle an anonymous contribution (1st Sub. H.B. 493) (**Powell**).

47. Application for a Convention - to study the process for applying to the United States Congress, under Article V of the constitution, for a convention to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution, and the selection, commission, and instructions for a delegate to the convention (**Daw**).

48. Campaign Fund Use - to study whether county, municipal, and service district candidates should be restricted in the personal use of campaign funds similar to state office candidates (**Powell**).

49. Candidate Replacement - to study whether the candidate replacement deadline should be changed to better match other election deadlines (**Powell**).

51. Division of Fleet Operations - to study the privatization of the Division of Fleet Operations (**Weiler**).

52. Election Code Changes - to study and review the annual list of election code policy and clean-up issues (**Powell**).

53. Election Dates - to study whether special elections and primary municipal elections should be held on the same day (**Powell**).

54. Emergency Authority for Election Official - to study whether, during a period of a declared emergency where a short time frame for ballot transmission exists, the chief election officer should have authority to designate alternative methods for handling absentee ballots to ensure that all voters, including military and overseas voters, have the opportunity to vote (**Powell**).

55. Government Competition with Private Enterprise - to study what conditions should be met before a government entity is allowed to engage in commercial activity (**Duplicate of Item # 173**, H.B. 94) (**J. Anderson**).

56. Municipal Election Modifications - to study potential changes to municipal elections processes (S.B. 283) (**Bramble**).

59. Open Legislative Caucuses - to study the importance of open caucus meetings and conducting debate on bills on the floor of the House and Senate and not behind closed doors (S.B. 45) (**Romero**).

60. Political Party Affiliation - to study whether the Legislature wishes to amend or delete the deadline for declaring political party affiliation (**Powell**).

61. Presidential Electors - to study whether to elect the president of the United States by national popular vote rather than by the current electoral college process (1st Sub. H.B. 509) (**Powell**).

63. Straight Party Vote - to study and evaluate the necessity of offering the straight party ticket vote on election ballots **(Doughty)**.

64. Surplus Property Service - to study the privatization of surplus property service **(Weiler)**.

65. Uniform Code References - to study amendments to the Utah Code to ensure uniformity in referencing department and division heads **(Dayton)**.

66. Unregistered Voter Ballots - to study the counting of provisional ballots of certain unregistered voters (H.B. 145) **(Chavez-Houck)**.

95. Governmental Immunities Amendments - to study how to amend the Governmental Immunities Act to allow families to recover damages from the state **(L. Christensen)**.

173. Government competition with the private sector **(Duplicate of Item # 55, H.B. 94) (House Political Subdivisions Standing). Government Operations and Political Subdivisions**