

INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Michael E. Christensen, Director
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INTERIM COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Business and Labor

STUDIES:

- Discussed potential study items for the 2001 interim.
- Received an update from the Department of Commerce regarding filings with the Division of Corporations and Commercial Code and regulation of mortgage practices.

*Chairs: Sen. Dan R. Eastman/Rep. Katherine M. Bryson
Staff: Mary Catherine Perry (analyst)/Patricia Owen (attorney)*

Education

STUDY: Received testimony regarding proposals to change the governance of applied technology education.

ACTION: Authorized the chairs to request the Executive Appropriations Committee to consider whether discretionary funds appropriated to the Office of Education for charter schools should be used for start-up costs of charter schools sponsored by local school districts.

*Chairs: Sen. Howard A. Stephenson/Rep. Marda Dillree
Staff: Connie Steffen (analyst)/Dee Larsen (attorney)*

Government Operations

STUDY: Discussed potential study items for the 2001 interim, including election law reform; campaign finance, ethics, and lobbyist reform; boards and commissions; and government facilities construction and management.

REPORT: Received a report from the Utah Seismic Safety Commission regarding recent activities and future priorities for earthquake safety.

*Chairs: Sen. John W. Hickman/Rep. Craig W. Buttars
Staff: John Cannon (analyst)/John Fellows (attorney)*

Health and Human Services

REPORTS:

- Received a report that the Lisa P. settlement agreement has been dismissed.
- Received a report that the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed continued oversight of the Division of Child and Family Services by a federal court.
- Received a report on the status of tobacco settlement monies held in escrow.

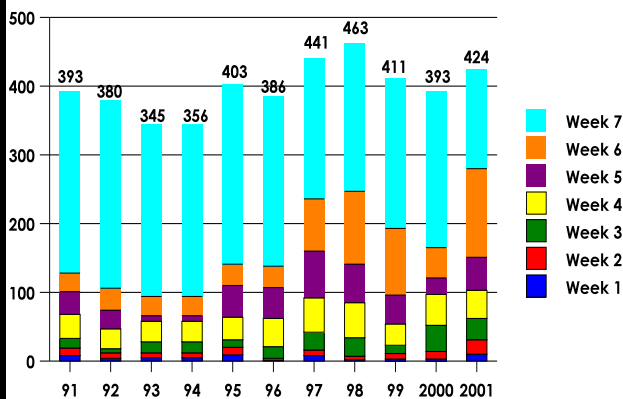
ACTION:

- Approved the creation of two subcommittees: one to study tobacco issues and the other to develop approaches for improving adolescent health through the promotion of fitness and good nutrition.
- Directed staff to draft legislation to repeal 20 of the 34 reports the committee receives from executive, judicial, and legislative branch entities.

*Chairs: Sen. Terry R. Spencer/Rep. Carl R. Saunders
Staff: Mark Andrews (analyst)/Paul Hess, Catherine Dupont (attorneys)*

Number of Bills Passed Weekly

1991 to 2001 General Sessions



For more graphs on session statistics, see page 3

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Redistricting Information

Judiciary

STUDY: Discussed potential study items for the 2001 interim.

REPORT: Received a report on the legal implications of election law reform.

*Chairs: Sen. David L. Gladwell/Rep. Glenn L. Way
Staff: Jerry Howe (analyst)/Esther Chelsea-McCarty (attorney)*

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

STUDY: Discussed potential study items for the 2001 interim.

REPORTS:

- Received a written report from the Disability Law Center regarding whether inmates should receive credit for time served at the Utah State Hospital.
- Received a report from Mike Chabries, the new executive director of the Department of Corrections, regarding the department's mission and vision and the strategies being implemented to achieve its goals.

*Chairs: Sen. D. Chris Buttars/Rep. DeMar "Bud" Bowman
Staff: Chyleen Arbon (analyst)/Susan Creager Allred (attorney)*

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

STUDY: Discussed potential study items for the 2001 interim and the possibility of meeting jointly with the Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee during the interim.

REPORTS:

- Received a report from the Department of Natural Resources on the activities and reporting deadline of the Executive Committee on Water Rights.
- Received a report from the Department of Environmental Quality regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to review the pending arsenic standard for drinking water in order to seek independent reviews of both the science behind the standard and the estimates of the costs to communities to implement the rule.

*Chairs: Sen. Parley G. Hellewell/Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Staff: Brian Allred (analyst)/Jeanenne Larson (attorney)*

Political Subdivisions

STUDY: Discussed potential study items for the 2001 interim.

ACTION: Authorized the chairs to request the Legislative Management Committee to reauthorize the Special Districts Subcommittee to recodify special district statutes.

*Chairs: Sen. Carlene M. Walker/Rep. David L. Hogue
Staff: Joseph Wade (analyst)/Keith Woodwell (attorney)*

Public Utilities and Technology

STUDIES:

- Discussed potential study items for the 2001 interim.
- Discussed the 1995 Telecommunications Deregulation Act and how the transition to an unregulated, competitive telecommunication market in Utah is progressing. Additional information regarding costs and prices of network elements was requested from the various entities represented at the meeting.

*Chairs: Sen. Leonard M. Blackham/Rep. John E. Swallow
Staff: Richard North (analyst)/Robert Rees (attorney)*

Revenue and Taxation

STUDIES:

- Reviewed Utah's property tax system, including constitutional provisions, taxable value, tax levies, revenue trends, and incidence and uses of the property tax.
- Reviewed state and county property tax relief programs for the poor, the blind, and veterans.

REPORTS:

- Received a report from the Utah State Tax Commission on tax collection trends for fiscal year 2000-01. General Fund and Uniform School Fund collections are approximately \$23 million below legislative revenue projections. However, final individual income tax payments are still being processed, and collections may yet climb to meet or exceed projections. Transportation Fund collections are approximately \$2 million below legislative estimates. In addition, a large motor fuel distributor has notified the Tax Commission that it has been erroneously overpaying motor fuel taxes and will be seeking a refund of up to \$8 million.
- Received a report on how locally assessed and centrally assessed taxpayers appeal their property tax valuations.

*Chairs: Sen. Curtis S. Bramble/Rep. Wayne A. Harper
Staff: Bryant Howe (analyst)/Rebecca Rockwell (attorney)*

Transportation

STUDIES:

- Discussed policy choices contained in H.B. 141, "Motorboat Driver Licensing Requirements," which was introduced in the 2001 General Session.
- Discussed whether hybrid electric vehicle owners should receive the same income tax credit that is offered to vehicles that are converted to clean fuels.

REPORT: Received an update on the I-15 Reconstruction Project, indicating that it is under budget and on schedule to be completed by July 15, 2001.

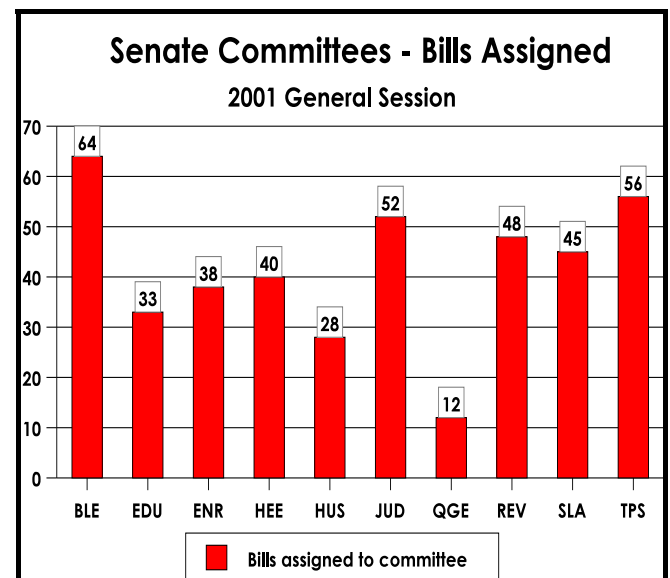
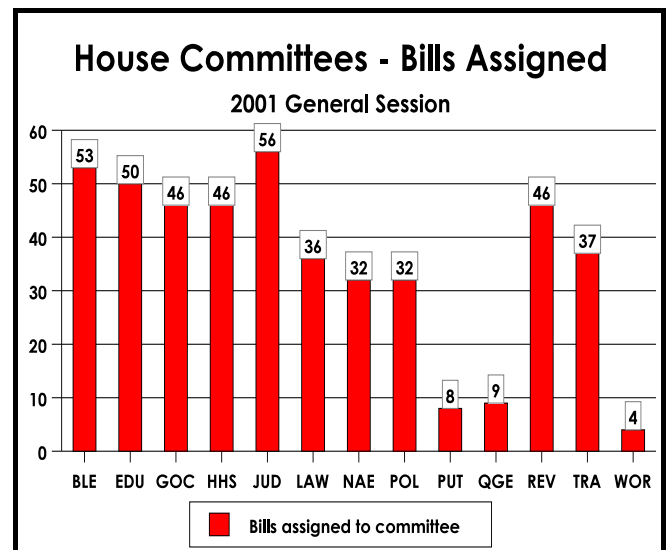
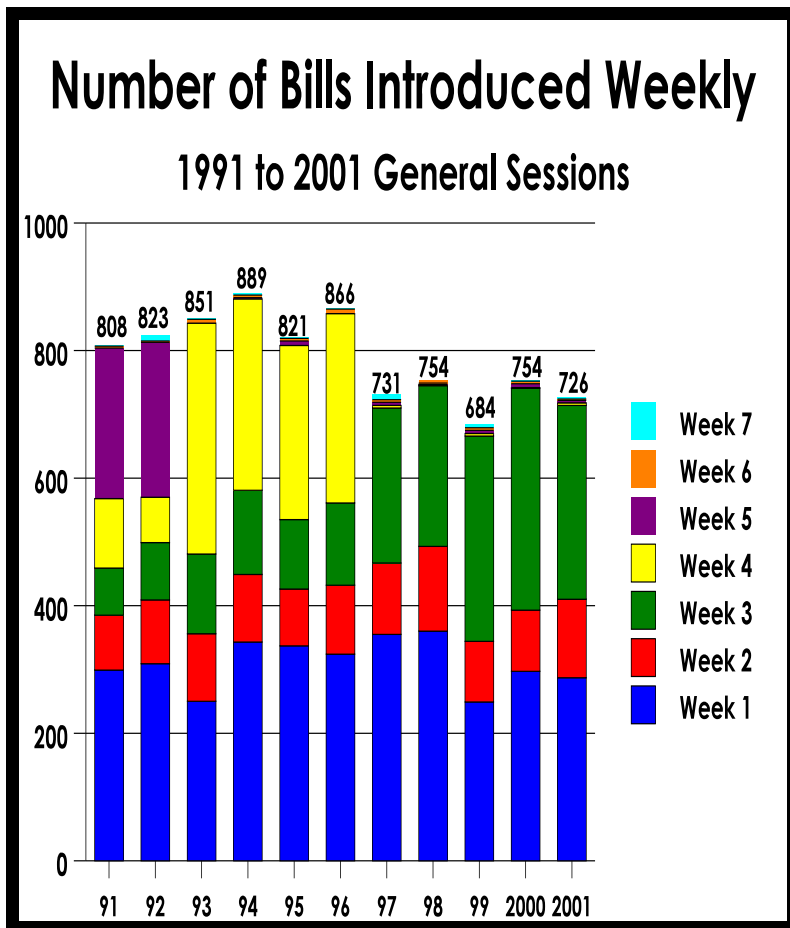
*Chairs: Sen. David H. Steele/Rep. Joseph G. Murray
Staff: Benjamin Christensen (analyst)/Cheryl Felt (attorney)*

Workforce Services and Community and Economic Development

STUDY: Discussed potential study items for the 2001 interim, including child care issues, accountability for food stamp accuracy, and enhancing tourism development opportunities during the 2002 Olympics.

*Chairs: Sen. Beverly Evans/Rep. Richard M. Siddoway
Staff: Wayne Lewis (analyst)/Jim Wilson (attorney)*

GENERAL SESSION STATISTICS



CENSUS LITIGATION UPDATE

On Wednesday, March 28, 2001, the State of Utah presented its arguments to a three-judge panel of federal judges. The arguments were simple: order the Census Bureau to either include the over 11,000 Utah residents who were serving overseas missions for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; or exclude the federal military and civilian employees who were serving overseas.

On Friday, April 13, the state amended its complaint by arguing that the Census Bureau used a statistical sampling procedure known as "imputation" to add approximately 1.2 million persons nationwide who were not individually counted. A 1999 U.S. Supreme Court decision held that statistical sampling is prohibited by the Census Act. The state's second amended complaint also alleged that statistical sampling violated the Apportionment Clause. If successful in any of its arguments, Utah would gain a fourth congressional seat and North Carolina would be limited to 12 seats.

On Tuesday, April 17, the three-judge panel handed down two decisions. The first decision denied the state the opportunity to amend its complaint regarding the Census Bureau's use of imputation because it was not filed in a timely manner. The second decision granted the Census Bureau and North Carolina's motions for summary judgment against the state on all three of its claims.

The question of appealing the case is now under discussion. Because of its unique assignment to a three-judge federal panel, any appeal will go straight to the U.S. Supreme Court.

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE BEGINS WORK

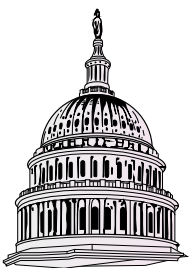
The population shifts documented by the 2000 Census require Utah to redistrict the congressional, Utah House and Senate, and state school board districts. Because of the uneven growth within the state, districts will be redrawn to ensure proportionate representation of the state's citizens, promoting the "one person, one vote" principle.

The constitutional responsibility for redrawing these districts falls to the Legislature, as the elected voice of the people. On April 26, the newly appointed Redistricting Committee will begin its work under the leadership of Sen. Michael G. Waddoups and Rep. Gerry A. Adair.

One of the Redistricting Committee's first tasks will be to request input from minority groups, interest groups, legislators, and the general public. Information presented at the committee meetings will be available on the Internet at the Utah Legislature's home page. The direct link is: <http://www.le.state.ut.us/Interim/2001/html/2001sperdt.htm>.

The public is invited to submit written comments to the Redistricting Committee by sending correspondence to:

Redistricting Committee
Room 436 State Capitol
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
Fax 538-1712
E-mail Redistricting@le.state.ut.us



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For more information about legislative activities during the interim,
please contact our office.

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