



# INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel  
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## LEGISLATIVE INTERIM MEETINGS

Meetings were held September 19, 2012 or as noted.

### Administrative Rules Review Committee

August 17, 2012

#### Administering Rabies Vaccines at Animal Shelters

Discussed whether state administrative rules and state statutes need to be amended to clarify under what conditions certain animal shelter employees, other than a licensed veterinarian, may administer rabies vaccines at animal shelters.

**Action:** Directed committee staff to prepare a letter to the Legislative Management Committee requesting that it assign the administering of rabies vaccines at animal shelters to either the Health and Human Services Interim Committee, the Business and Labor Interim Committee, or the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee for further study.

#### Rulemaking by State Agencies Based on Legislation Passed in the 2012 General Session

Received a report from committee staff that listed the name and title of each bill passed in the 2012 General Session of the Legislature that requires a state agency to make new agency administrative rules or amend current.

September 04, 2012

#### Requirements for Food Handlers

Discussed the Department of Health's delegation of rulemaking authority to local health departments regarding the responsibility of certifying and training food handlers in the state and why the department has not made its own administrative rules to administer the certifying and training functions, as required by state statute.

**Action:** Requested that the Department of Health prepare administrative rules that establish minimum requirements for food handler certification and training as required by state statute.

#### Current Title and Escrow Rulemaking Process Related to R592-16 and R592-17

Received a report from the Title and Escrow Commission regarding its preparation of rules regarding:

- Agency supervision of a qualifying title agency licensee; and
- Minimum mandatory standards for conducting searches.

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Discussed concerns raised by members of the industry regarding actions of the Title and Escrow Commission and the procedure used by the commission to prepare administrative rule changes.

**Action:** Directed committee staff to prepare a letter to the Legislative Management Committee requesting that it assign the Business and Labor Interim Committee to study whether state title and escrow statutes are too restrictive, whether they regulate beyond those measures needed to protect citizens, and whether they reflect the proper role of government when regulating industry.

#### Division of Water Quality Rulemaking Process for Preparing Changes to Onsite Wastewater Systems Rules

Discussed public comments that expressed concern with the process used by the Division of Water Quality to prepare changes to current administrative rules governing onsite wastewater systems.

#### Rulemaking by State Agencies Based on Legislation Passed in the 2012 General Session

Received a report from the Division of Administrative Rules regarding the efforts of state agencies and the division to ensure completion of rulemaking required by bills passed in the 2012 General Session within the time frame required by the Administrative Rulemaking Act.

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

### Business and Labor

#### Alarm System Security Licensing

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill "Alarm Company Employee Licensing," which modifies provisions relating to the licensing of alarm company employees. The definition of "alarm company agent" excludes certain alarm company

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employees from licensing requirements.

### Recommendations of the Uniform Building Code Commission

Received information from the Uniform Building Code Commission regarding its recommended changes to the State Construction and Fire Codes Act. Recommendations include the following:

- Adopting the 2012 International Construction Code, 2012 International Energy Code, and 2012 International Residential Code; and
- Deleting or modifying existing code provisions to conform to the adoption of the new 2012 codes.

### Recommendations of the Utah State Fire Prevention Board

Received information from the Utah State Fire Prevention Board regarding its recommended changes to the State Fire Code. Recommendations include the following:

- Modifications of requirements for sprinkler systems in certain garages;
- Assurance of access by inspectors to pump and riser rooms; and
- Requirements for installation of carbon monoxide alarms.

### Sunset Review: Insurance Department Coordination with Other States

**Action:** *Approved as a committee bill "Reauthorization of Provisions for Insurance Coordination with Other States," which extends these provisions of the Utah Code for an additional ten years.*

### Unincorporated Business Entities

**Action:** *Approved as a committee bill "Unincorporated Business Entities," which modifies Utah Code Title 48, Partnerships, to enact a new Unincorporated Business Entity Act, and modifies references to the partnership or unincorporated business entities provisions throughout the Utah Code. This legislation is based on recommendations from the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.*

*Chairs: Rep. James A. Dunnigan / Sen. John L. Valentine*

*Staff: Bryant R. Howe (Assistant Director) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Robert H. Rees (Attorney) / Jennifer K. Christopherson (Secretary)*

## Economic Development and Workforce Services

### Attracting New Commercial Projects Report

Received a report from the Governor's Office of Economic Development describing the office's success in attracting new

commercial projects to development zones.

The report included the following:

- Corresponding increases in new jobs;
- The estimated amount of tax-credit commitments made by the office;
- The period of time over which tax credits will be offered; and
- The economic impact on the state related to generating new state revenues and providing tax credits under the program.

### Business Development for Disadvantaged Rural Communities Report

Received a statutorily required report from the Governor's Office of Economic Development on the Business Development for Disadvantaged Rural Communities Act, which provides that the Board of Business and Economic Development may award eligible counties a grant or loan of up to \$75,000 for an economic development project.

### Economic Development Task Force - Update

Received an update from the Economic Development Task Force on its work.

### Motion Picture Incentives Report

Received a statutorily required report from the Film Commission of the Governor's Office of Economic Development on the Motion Picture Incentive Program, which offers post-performance cash rebates or tax credits to approved motion picture companies based on the amount of money spent in the state.

### Office of Rural Development Report

Received a statutorily required report from the Governor's Rural Partnership Board and the Governor's Office of Economic Development about the Office of Rural Development, which fosters and supports economic development programs in rural communities.

### Committee Bill Priorities

**Action:** *Voted to prioritize two bills being drafted for future committee consideration related to the Utah Commission on Service and Volunteerism and agency reporting provisions.*

### Rural Economic Development Strategies

Received a presentation from Southern Utah University on the Rural Utah Economic Gardening Demonstration Project underway in eleven rural Utah counties. Rural economic development strategies often focus on developing local business from within rather than on a new business recruitment approach.

### Rural Fast Track Program Report

Received a statutorily required report from the Governor's Office of Economic Development on the Rural Fast Track Program, which provides incentives for creating high-paying jobs in rural areas of the state. The program promotes business and economic development in those rural areas and is funded by a portion of the Industrial Assistance Account in

the General Fund.

### Tourism Development Plan Report

Received a statutorily required report from the Governor's Office of Economic Development evaluating statewide economic trends and conditions in the tourism sector of the economy and an evaluation of the economic efficiency of advertising and branding campaigns.

*Chairs: Rep. Jim Bird / Sen. Stuart C. Reid*

*Staff: Benjamin N. Christensen (Policy Analyst) / Peter Asplund (Attorney) / Robert H. Rees (Attorney) / Debra Hale (Secretary)*

### Economic Development Task Force

Discussed air quality issues with a panel of business representatives, health experts, and state agencies. Discussed how air quality is one of many factors that businesses consider when deciding where to locate. Discussed the following options for addressing poor air quality:

- Converting fleet vehicles to cleaner fuels;
- Providing incentives to car-pool or use mass transit;
- Increasing investments in natural gas vehicle corridors;
- Managing vehicle idling; and
- Offering low interest loans for businesses to purchase low-emissions equipment.

*Co-Chairs: Sen. Stuart C. Reid / Rep. Brad R. Wilson*

*Benjamin N. Christensen (Policy Analyst) / Nathan W. Brady (Policy Analyst) / Robert H. Rees (Attorney) / Jennifer Christopherson (Legislative Secretary)*

## Education

### Appointment of State Superintendent

Acknowledged the upcoming retirement of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and heard from the State Board of Education regarding the procedure for selecting the next superintendent.

### High-Quality Preschool

Received a presentation of Granite School District's Title 1 preschool program, which serves economically disadvantaged students and increases school readiness for those students. Within that presentation, the committee received information from Granite School District regarding components of a high-quality preschool and the sustained academic outcomes the program has realized. The committee also received information from Utah State University on the evaluation of the program and the research findings on which the program is based. A legislator presented draft legislation "High Quality Preschool Project," which would award grants on a competitive basis to school districts that partner with private providers to offer a high-quality preschool.

### Public Education Employment Reform

Received a status report from the State Office of Education on implementation of the educator and administrator evaluations as required by 2012 General Session S.B. 64, "Public Education Employment Reform."

## Students at Risk of Academic Failure

Received a presentation from committee staff and information from the State Office of Education regarding 2012 General Session S.B. 151, Second Substitute, "Students At Risk of Academic Failure Study," which directs the Education Interim Committee to conduct a study of programs that assist students at risk of academic failure. As part of this study, the committee received funding, application, and usage data for the Carson Smith Scholarships for Special Needs Students Program to determine whether funding for the program is sufficient to meet the demand for scholarships.

## U-PASS Reporting Requirements

Received a committee staff briefing and a presentation from the State Office of Education on data that is required to be reported in the School Performance Report by the State Office of Education, and whether or not this data is being reported.

## UPSTART Project

Received an annual report from the Waterford Institute on UPSTART, a home-based school readiness pilot project that is delivered using educational technology.

*Chairs: Rep. Francis D. Gibson / Sen. Howard A. Stephenson*

*Staff: Allison M. Nicholson (Policy Analyst) / Constance C. Steffen (Policy Analyst) / Angela Oakes Stallings (Attorney) / Debra Hale (Secretary)*

## Government Operations

### Annual Elections Cleanup Recommendations

Received a presentation from committee staff regarding the remaining proposed substantive and technical changes to state elections law recommended by the Lieutenant Governor's Office that were not addressed in the June committee meeting.

### Anonymous Campaign Contributions

Discussed the disposition of anonymous campaign contributions over \$50, which are not permitted under Utah law.

**Action:** *Considered draft legislation "Anonymous Campaign Contributions."*

### Campaign Filing by Media Owner

Discussed whether to repeal statutory language requiring a media owner to file a statement when a newspaper or periodical prints information that may influence an election.

**Action:** *Approved as a committee bill "Campaign Filing by Media Owner," which repeals provisions, including related criminal provisions, that require a media owner to file a statement when a newspaper or periodical prints information that may influence an election.*

### Elections During a Declared Emergency

Discussed whether to authorize the lieutenant governor to take certain actions related to voting when a declared emergency affects an election.

### Internal Service Fund Oversight

Received a report from the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst regarding Internal Service Funds, which are state entities that provide goods or services to other government agencies.

The report included recommendations to improve oversight and customer service.

### Personal Use of Campaign Funds

Discussed whether to require a municipality or a county to adopt an ordinance prohibiting the use of campaign funds for personal expenditures.

**Action:** Directed committee staff to make additional changes to the current draft legislation "Personal Use of Campaign Funds" and prepare a new draft for consideration by the committee at a future meeting.

### Requirements to Change Form of County Government

Discussed whether to amend the signature requirements for a petition to change the form of a county government.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill "Requirements to Change Form of County Government," which requires that a petition to change the form of a county government be signed by registered voters residing in the county equal in number to at least 10% of the total number of votes cast in the county at the most recent election for president of the United States.

### Scheduling of Special Elections

Discussed whether to amend provisions related to the dates on which a statewide or local special election may be scheduled.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill "Scheduling of Special Elections," which amends the dates on which the governor, the Legislature, or the legislative body of a local political subdivision may schedule, respectively, a statewide or local special election.

Chairs: Rep. Kraig Powell / Sen. Peter C. Knudsen  
Staff: Art L. Hunsaker (Policy Analyst) / Emily R. Brown (Attorney) / Thomas R. Vaughn (Attorney) / Anna M. Allen (Secretary)

## Health and Human Services

### Hospital and Clinic Quality Measures

Received a report from the Department of Health on its development of quality measures to compare clinics and hospitals with one another. The department reported that it has determined it is unable to use its All-payer Claims Database to do comparisons at the clinic level, but believes it can resolve the issue in a few months by requiring more explicit reporting of health insurance claims data.

### Second-hand Smoke in Motor Vehicles

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill "Protection of Children Riding in Motor Vehicles," which prohibits a person from smoking in a motor vehicle if a child who is fifteen years of age or younger is a passenger.

### The Children's Center

Received a report from The Children's Center on the center's role in treating children less than eight years of age with severe behavioral and mental health needs. The center requested that the Legislature restore the \$250,000 in annual state funding that it previously received.

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### Third-hand Smoke in Motor Vehicles

Considered the effects of third-hand smoke and whether it should be prohibited in commercial vehicles used by more than one employee.

Chairs: Rep. Paul Ray / Sen. Allen M. Christensen  
Staff: Mark D. Andrews (Policy Analyst) / RuthAnne Frost (Attorney) / Cathy J. Dupont (Attorney) / Lori R. Rammell (Secretarial Supervisor)

## Health System Reform Task Force

September 11, 2012

### Responding to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Received a report from the Insurance Department on the implementation of the task force's August 16, 2012 recommendation that the state adopt the Public Employees Health Program's Utah Basic Plus state employee health insurance plan as the essential health benefits package for purposes of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The department reported that it filed an emergency rule, effective August 31, to implement the recommendation, and that a public hearing on the rule is scheduled for September 24. The department also reported on the use of health insurance enrollment windows and waiting periods as tools to encourage enrollment and minimize adverse selection against insurers, particularly when the major provisions of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act take effect in 2014.

Chairs: Rep. James A. Dunnigan / Sen. Wayne L. Niederhauser  
Staff: Mark D. Andrews (Policy Analyst) / RuthAnne Frost (Attorney) / Cathy J. Dupont (Attorney) / Lori R. Rammell (Secretarial Supervisor)

## Judiciary

### Alimony Draft Legislation

Reviewed draft legislation "Alimony Amendments," which allows a court to consider fault under certain circumstances when awarding alimony. The committee received public comment from the Sutherland Institute, the Legal Aid Society of Utah, and the American Parental Action League.

### Public Shooting Range Targets

Received public comment regarding the ban on the use of human silhouettes as targets on public shooting ranges. The Division of Wildlife Resources explained that it does not allow human silhouettes as targets during normal business hours because its two public ranges focus on hunter education and training.

### Utah Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission

Received an update from the Utah Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission on the first results of the judicial evaluation process developed pursuant to its statutory mandate. The presentation included a demonstration of the commission's website, the evaluation reports for judges on the ballot in November, and the content of the Voter Information Pamphlet.

Chairs: Rep. Kay L. McCliff / Sen. Mark B. Madsen  
Staff: Chelsea B. Lloyd (Policy Analyst) / Esther Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Jennifer K. Christopherson (Secretary)



## Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

### Concealed Weapons Fees Report

Received a statutorily required report from the Bureau of Criminal Identification on the amount and use of fees collected for concealed firearms permit applications. The bureau projects 81,552 application requests for 2012. This number is an increase over the 76,943 requests in 2011 and 67,263 requests in 2010. The bureau anticipates roughly \$2.6 million in fees collected and \$2.3 million in expenditures including personnel, supplies, and operating expenses, for 2012, resulting in a fee surplus of approximately \$300,000.

### Crisis Intervention Team Training

Received a report from the Department of Human Services regarding the Crisis Intervention Team training program in Utah. In 2001, the state partnered with local police and the National Alliance on Mental Illness to provide training on how to respond to mental health crisis situations. The Legislature appropriated \$118,700 from the General Fund in 2012 to fund this program. According to the Crisis Intervention Team program, 103 of 147 law enforcement agencies in Utah have an officer trained by the program, and there are currently 1,500 sworn Crisis Intervention Team officers in Utah.

### Enticing a Minor

Received a status update regarding legislation being prepared that would amend current law to clarify that those who act in a way to entice minors to commit a sexual act do not avoid prosecution if they do not actually meet with the minor.

### Housing State Inmates in County Jails

Received a statutorily required report from the Utah Department of Corrections regarding the calculated final state daily incarceration rate. The rate is \$77.94 per day for 2012. The department reported that the 2012 state daily incarceration rate will result in payments to counties of:

- \$61.57 per day for contracted jail beds that also provide treatment programs to state inmates;
- \$56.90 per day for contracted jail beds that do not provide treatment programs; and
- \$38.97 per day for jail beds used to house state probationary or paroled inmates.

### Seat Belt Compliance on High-speed Roadways

Received a report from a legislator and the Utah Highway Patrol regarding compliance with seat belt laws and fatality rates on Utah highways. According to the Utah Highway Patrol, less than ten percent of all motorists choose to not use a seatbelt, however, they represent roughly fifty percent of all traffic fatalities and were twice as likely as occupants who used seatbelts to die in accidents that resulted in severely damaged vehicles.

### Sexual Assault in Utah

Received a report from the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice regarding sexual violence in Utah. According to the commission, rape is the only violent crime that has a higher rate in Utah than the national average.

The commission suggested that the Legislature consider creating a victim treatment fund and enacting legislation allowing a person to seek a protective order when he or she is not in a domestic living arrangement. Currently, dating persons who do not live together or have a child in common may not seek a protective order unless there have been two incidents of abuse.

*Chairs: Rep. Curtis Oda / Sen. Todd Weiler*

*Staff: Nathan W. Brady (Policy Analyst) / Susan Creager Allred (Attorney) / Lori R. Rammell (Secretarial Supervisor)*

## Legislative Information Technology Steering Committee

*September 14, 2012*

### Desk Phone Contract

Received presentations from committee staff on the top ranked hosted and non-hosted options resulting from the issued request for proposal for desk phone systems. The committee staff presented cost comparisons based on the needs indicated by legislators and staff. The two vendors made brief presentations and answered questions.

**Action:** *Recommended to the Legislative Management Committee that the Legislature fund the non-hosted desk phone proposal.*

*Chairs: Rep. John Dougall / Sen. Curtis S. Bramble*

*Staff: Thomas R. Vaughn (Attorney) / Mark J Allred (IT Manager) / Samantha Coombs (Secretary)*

## Legislative Management Committee

Received a report from the Office of the Attorney General and the Division of Risk Management requesting approval of a settlement agreement involving the Nebo School District. Since the agreement is in excess of \$500,000 but less than \$1,000,000 it must be approved by the Legislative Management Committee.

**Action:**

- *Approved the settlement agreement requested by the Office of the Attorney General and the Division of Risk Management.*
- *Approved the purchase of a new phone (land line) system for the Legislature.*
- *Approved the hiring of a director for the Independent Legislative Ethics Commission.*
- *Approved the requests from the following interim committees and appropriation subcommittees:*
  - ◊ *Business, Economic Development, and Labor Appropriations Subcommittee to hold a meeting on October 18, 2012;*
  - ◊ *Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee to hold two interim meetings— one to be held on October 10, 2012, and the other yet to be determined; and*

- ◊ *Health and Human Services Interim Committee to study two additional items:*
  - *Licensing of pharmaceutical researchers in pharmaceutical research facilities associated with Utah universities or colleges; and*
  - *Amendments to responsibilities of an amateur sports organization or its agent under Title 26, Chapter 53, Protection of Athletes with Head Injuries Act.*
- Assigned the study of administering rabies vaccines to animals in animal shelters to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee.
- Assigned the study of Utah Code provisions regarding the Title and Escrow Commission to the Business and Labor Interim Committee to determine whether changes should be made to assure that the commission fulfills the role envisioned by the Legislature.

*Chair & Vice Chair: Speaker Rebecca D. Lockhart / President Michael G. Waddoups  
Staff: Michael E. Christensen (Director) / John L. Fellows (General Counsel) / Phalin L. Flowers (Administrative Assistant)*

## Legislative Records Committee

*August 20, 2012*

### Government Records Access Management Act Fees

Received public comment and discussed the waiver of fees assessed for gathering information related to the Democratic Party's Government Records and Access Management Act request regarding redistricting.

The committee did not approve a motion to waive the fee.

*Chairs: President Michael G. Waddoups  
Staff: Phil Dean (Policy Analyst) / Rebecca Rockwell (Attorney) / Jennifer Christopherson (Secretary)*

## Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

### Consumer Electronic Device Recycling

Received a statutorily required report from the Department of Environmental Quality on collection, reuse, and recycling systems for consumer electronic devices.

### Energy Producer States' Agreement

Received a statutorily required report from legislators appointed to study and work with legislative members of other energy producing states on the progress of the states' agreements to promote energy production.

### State Land Management

Received a report from the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands; Division of State Parks and Recreation; Division of Wildlife Resources; School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration; and Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office on their responsibilities for the management of state lands.

### Sunset Review - Energy Producer States' Agreement

**Action:** *Voted to recommend the reauthorization of Utah Code Section 36-12-20, Energy Producer States' Agreement, for a period of five years.*

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## Transfer of Public Lands

Received a progress report from the Constitutional Defense Council on its study of the transfer of public lands to the state and related legislation.

## Water Rights Study

Received a report from the Department of Natural Resources on water rights legislation recommended by the Executive Water Task Force. The committee identified potential legislation to be considered in the November interim meeting.

*Chairs: Rep. Roger E. Barrus / Sen. Ralph Okerlund  
Staff: J Brian Allred (Policy Analyst) / Tracy J. Nuttall (Attorney) / Anna M. Allen (Secretary)*

## Political Subdivisions

### County Recorder Authority to Reject a Wrongful Lien

Received a report regarding the authority of a county recorder to reject a 'wrongful release' in addition to current authority.

### Sovereign Citizen Liens

Received a report from a legislator concluding that current criminal penalties, if enforced, sufficiently address concerns regarding sovereign citizen liens.

### Utah Telecommunication Open Infrastructure Agency

Discussed a recent audit of the Utah Telecommunication Open Infrastructure Agency, an inter-local agency of certain Utah cities, including a review of the audit by the Office of the Legislative Auditor General and a response by representatives of cities that are members of the agency. The audit found that the agency faces a challenging financial situation for various reasons including poor planning, mismanagement, and unreliable business partners.

*Chairs: Rep. R. Curt Webb / Sen. Casey O. Anderson  
Staff: Joseph T. Wade (Policy Analyst) / Victoria Ashby (Attorney) / Samantha Coombs (Secretary)*

## Public Utilities and Technology

### Certified Natural Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas Service Station Infrastructure

Received presentations from natural and liquefied gas providers, state and local government fleet services, the State Office of Education, and Jordan School District about the gas provider infrastructure and the nationwide conversion of fleet vehicles, including school buses, from diesel to natural gas-powered. For example, Waste Management Incorporated - Utah began converting all 18,000 fleet vehicles from diesel to natural gas in May of this year.

Additional information about the manufacturing of new gas vehicles, conversion kits, and tax incentives was also provided.

### Coal to Natural Gas Baseload Energy Conversion

Received presentations from the Utah Mining Association, Arch Coal, and Deseret Power about a recently completed University of Utah Bureau of Economic and Business Research report, commissioned by the Mining Association, to study the impact of coal production and coal use in Utah.

*(Continued next page)*

The report included information about royalties, taxes, recoverable coal reserves, price stability, and employment.

*Chairs: Rep. Michael E. Noel / Sen. J. Stuart Adams*

*Staff: Richard C. North (Policy Analyst) / Robert H. Rees (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Secretary)*

## Revenue and Taxation

### Property tax

**Action:** *Approved as a committee bill "Property Taxation of Business Personal Property," which increases a property tax exemption for personal property and repeals an inflation adjustment for the exemption.*

**Action:** *Voted to open a committee bill file related to the property taxation of nonprofit entities*

### Utah Telecommunication Open Infrastructure Agency

Discussed a recent audit of the Utah Telecommunication Open Infrastructure Agency, an inter-local agency of certain Utah cities, including a review of the audit by the Office of the Legislative Auditor General and a response by representatives of cities that are members of the agency. The audit found that the agency faces a challenging financial situation for various reasons including poor planning, mismanagement, and unreliable business partners.

### Water Funding and Pricing

Discussed draft legislation "Sales and Use Tax Allocations for Water Resources Funding" that would allocate 15% of sales and use tax revenue growth to water development projects. Requested that additional information be presented at a future meeting.

*Chairs: Rep. Patrick Painter / Sen. Curtis S. Bramble*

*Staff: Bryant R. Howe (Assistant Director) / Phillip V. Dean (Policy Analyst) / Rebecca L. Rockwell (Attorney) / Samantha Coombs (Secretary)*

## State Water Development Commission

*September 18, 2012*

### Development of Water Resources

Received a recommendation from the Utah Rivers Council that the state increase water conservation and conversion of agricultural water before developing additional large-scale water projects.

### Public Trust Doctrine

Discussed the potential impact of the Public Trust Doctrine on water rights and the degree to which the Legislature can influence that impact.

### Sales and Use Tax Allocations for Water Resources Funding

**Action:** *Recommended to the Legislature proposed legislation "Sales and Use Tax Allocations for Water Resources Funding," which allocates certain sales and use tax revenues to the Water Resources Conservation and Development Fund.*

*Chairs: Rep. Patrick Painter / Sen. Margaret Dayton*

*Staff: J Brian Allred (Policy Analyst) / Tracy J. Nuttall (Attorney) / Anna M. Allen (Secretary)*

## Transportation

### Annual High Occupancy Vehicle Lane Report

Received a report from the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) regarding the High Occupancy Vehicle lane on I-15. The lane carries 10% of traffic but only 4.5% of accidents occur in the lane. During peak traffic hours, average speeds are faster and traffic volume is greater in the lane than in the general purpose lanes.

### Annual Review of New Transportation Capacity Projects

Received a statutorily required report from UDOT regarding the Mountain View Corridor, the reconstruction of I-15 in Utah County, and other highway capacity projects. The I-15 project is more than 90% complete and under budget by \$230 million. Over 700 contractors and 15,000 workers are employed on the project. By the end of 2012, the Mountain View Corridor from 160000 South to 5400 South will be open to the public.

### Motor Vehicle Titles

Receive a presentation from the Division of Motor Vehicles regarding the division's process of issuing a new motor vehicle title at the request of a repair facility or tow company that has not been compensated for services rendered by the owner of the vehicle.

### Speed Limit Studies

The committee received a report from the UDOT regarding studies of 80 miles per hour (mph) speed zones. To date, four 80 mph speed zones have been established between Nephi and Cedar City. Studies show an increased compliance with speed limits, but greater speed differentials between the slower vehicles and faster vehicles. The number of accidents in these zones appears to be stable, with two zones experiencing a decrease of greater than 10%.

**Action:** *Voted to support considering expanding the freeway segments on which UDOT may establish a posted speed of 80 mph. Currently, an 80 mph speed limit may only be established on I-15 between milepost 222 (south of Nephi) and milepost 64 (north of Cedar City).*

### Utah Transit Authority Customer Information

**Action:** *Approved as a committee bill "Public Transit District Customer Information," which classifies certain Utah Transit Authority customer information as a private record under the Government Records Access Management Act.*

*Chairs: Rep. Bradley M. Daw / Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell*

*Staff: Leif G. Elder (Policy Analyst) / Shannon C. Halverson (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Secretary)*

## Veterans Reintegration Task Force

September 05, 2012

### Veteran Employment - Utah Department of Workforce Services

Received a presentation from the Department of Workforce Services on the entire process a veteran follows when applying for employment assistance, including counseling, unemployment insurance, work ready evaluation, job preparation services, and job openings.

**Action:** Directed staff to open a bill file that requires all state and local government agencies and all contractors in the state which receive public monies to list their Utah job openings with the Utah Department of Workforces Services.

## INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS • September 2012

### Veterans Counseling Services / Suicide Prevention Programs

Received presentations from the Utah Air National Guard and the U.S. Veterans Administration about the types of counseling services including suicide prevention programs and post-traumatic stress syndrome they provide for veterans.

### Veterans Needs and Services Subcommittee Reports

Received reports from the Veterans Reintegration Needs subcommittee and the State Agencies Services for Veterans subcommittee.

*Chairs: Rep. Paul Ray / Sen. Peter C. Knudson  
Richard C. North (Policy Analyst) / Esther Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Legislative Secretary)*

Next Interim Day—October 17, 2012



Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Editors: Susan Creager Allred, Nathan W. Brady, & Leif Elder

Utah State Legislature's website at: [le.utah.gov](http://le.utah.gov)

For more information about legislative activities, visit the

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