

# INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST 2019 VOL. 19, No. 3



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## Legislative Interim Meetings

Meetings were held August, 21, 2019, or as noted

### Administrative Rules Review Committee

June 25, 2019

#### Driver License Permit Requirements

Discussed a Driver License Division policy detailing written exam requirements for learner permit holders and whether the policy should be adopted as a Driver License Division administrative rule due to its impact on the public.

**Action:** Voted to request that the Driver License Division prepare, as an administrative rule, written exam requirements for learner permit holders.

Requested that the division conduct a review to determine whether other policies may need to be placed in administrative rule due to their potential impact on the public.

#### Policy vs. Rule - When is Rulemaking Required?

Received a staff presentation regarding administrative rulemaking as a legislative authority delegated to the executive branch, when rulemaking is required, and features that distinguish an administrative rule from a policy.

#### R592-6-5 Permitted Advertising, Business Entertainment, and Methods of Competition

Received a presentation from the Insurance Department and the Title and Escrow Commission regarding the Department of Insurance rules related to inducements, in light of 2019 General Session S.B. 121, "[Controlled Business in Title Insurance Repeal](#)," and whether inducements should be eliminated.

**Action:** Requested that the Title and Escrow Commission review inducements in greater detail and come back to a future committee meeting with a proposed administrative rule change.

Chairs: Rep. Marc K. Roberts / Sen. Jacob L. Anderegg  
Staff: Art L. Hunsaker (Policy Analyst) / Ericka A. Evans (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

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## Business and Labor

### Disputes Between Residents and HOAs

Discussed alternatives to help residents and their homeowners' associations avoid or resolve disputes, short of going to court and incurring court costs and lawyers' fees, etc.

Identified seven states that employ an ombudsman for residents and homeowners' associations. The role of each state's ombudsman varies and may include educating parties of their rights and responsibilities, administering and monitoring association elections, or collecting evidence and resolving disputes.

Discussed requiring greater disclosures up front from associations and educating parties of their rights.

Received a [staff presentation](#) regarding states' ombudsman HOA laws and HOA [facts and figures](#) and a [presentation](#) from the Community Associations Institute.

### Other Committee Business

**Action:** Voted to open a committee bill file to address issues facing the Department of Commerce.

### Required Reports

Discussed the following executive branch agency reports and legislative audit that were received in accordance with statutory reporting requirements:

- [Building Standards for the Use of Mass Timber Products](#);
- [Annual Report of the Utah Motor Vehicle Franchise Advisory Board](#);
- [Audit Subcommittee Letter](#); and
- [A Performance Audit of Counties' Use of Tourism Promotion Funding](#).

**Action:** Voted to open a committee bill file to adopt the Uniform Building Code Commission's recommended building standards for the use of mass timber products for residential and commercial building construction.

### Water Rates for HOAs

Discussed the characteristics of homeowners' associations and their water infrastructure that pushes unit owners into higher-tiered billing rates, potentially resulting in low

volume users subsidizing high volume water users within the association. Heard presentations from the following stakeholders:

- [Division of Drinking Water](#);
- [Taylorsville-Bennion Improvement District](#);
- Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities;
- Utah Association of Special Districts;
- Community Associations Institute; and
- Community Solutions and Sales.

### Workers' Compensation Advisory Council

**Action:** Voted to favorably recommend draft legislation, "[Workers' Compensation Advisory Council Membership Amendments](#)," which amends the membership of the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council by adding one senator and one representative to its body in a nonvoting capacity.

Chairs: Rep. James A. Dunnigan / Sen. Curtis S. Bramble  
Staff: Adam J. Sweet (Policy Analyst) / Amy L. West (Attorney) / Gus Harb (Attorney) / Leila Reynolds (Administrative Assistant)

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## Criminal Code Evaluation Task Force

June 24, 2019

### Firearm Serial Number Violations

Received a [presentation](#) from the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office on sentencing policies for firearm serial number violations.

### Inmate Violence

Received a [presentation](#) from the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office on sentencing policies for violence among inmates.

### Criminal Code Evaluation Task Force

Received a [presentation](#) from staff providing an overview of the task force's accomplishments during the 2018 interim.

Received an overview of [changes](#) made to the task force during the 2019 General Session.

### Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Violations

Received a presentation from the Utah Home Builders Association on sentencing structures for storm water pollution prevention plan violations.

Chairs: Rep. Paul Ray / Sen. Karen Mayne  
Staff: John Feinauer (Policy Analyst) / Chelsea Grant (Attorney) / Esther D. Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

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## **Economic Development and Workforce Services**

### **Apprenticeship Programs**

Received an [update](#) from the Department of Workforce Services on apprenticeships in the state, including new apprenticeship programs.

The department introduced the recently hired Commissioner of Apprenticeship Programs, a position created within the Department of Workforce Services by 2019 General Session H.B. 280, "[Apprenticeship Opportunity Awareness](#)."

### **Childcare Shortage**

Received a presentation from Voices for Utah Children regarding the correlation between the lack of quality, affordable child care options and the state's workforce shortage.

Also received a presentation from the [Utah Child Care Cooperative](#) regarding possible solutions to the child care shortage.

Discussed draft legislation, "[Workforce Development Incentive Amendments](#)," which would permit the Governor's Office of Economic Development to consider whether an employer will provide working parent benefits when awarding certain economic development incentives.

### **Community Services Block Grant**

Received a [report](#) from the Department of Workforce Services on the state's plan related to the Community Services Block Grant.

### **Family Leave Policies**

Received a [presentation](#) on the benefits and prevalence of parental leave policies.

Discussed draft legislation, "[Parental Leave Amendments](#)," which would require executive branch agencies and departments to provide an eligible employee paid parental

leave upon the birth or adoption of the employee's child or foster placement of a child with the eligible employee.

### **Utah Cultural Alliance**

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Cultural Alliance regarding the economic impact of creative industries on the state.

### **Workforce Overview**

Received a [presentation](#) from the Department of Workforce Services outlining the strengths and weaknesses of the state's current and projected workforce.

Received recommendations for addressing those weaknesses while capitalizing on strengths.

**Chairs:** Rep. Mike Winder / Sen. Daniel McCay  
**Staff:** Julie Humberstone (Policy Analyst) / Peter Asplund (Attorney) / Leila Reynolds (Administrative Assistant)

## **Education**

### **Charter School Closure and Oversight**

Received a [presentation](#) from the State Board of Education and the Utah State Charter School Board regarding the recent decision to close the American International School of Utah and lessons learned from the process of closing the charter school.

### **Medicaid Reimbursements**

Received a [presentation](#) from the State Board of Education, the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, and the Department of Health in response to 2019 General Session H.B. 373, "[Student Support Amendments](#)," regarding recommendations related to the expansion of Medicaid reimbursements for services performed in public schools. Recommendations include:

- adopting a cost-based reimbursement methodology for local education agencies; and
- removing the eligibility requirements adopted by the State Board of Education and Medicaid for a minimum time that students must be placed in a special classroom.

### **Public Education Governance**

Received a [presentation](#) from a legislator regarding the governance structure of K-12 public education in Utah.

### **RISE Testing**

Received a [presentation](#) from the State Board of Education regarding recent RISE testing interruptions and corrective measures undertaken. Board staff reviewed:

- the process for contracting with Questar to provide RISE testing;





- the history of interruptions experienced by students participating in the RISE testing;
- the process to recover money paid to Questar; and
- the process the State Board took to terminate the contract with Questar and seek a new provider.

**Chairs:** Rep. V. Lowry Snow / Sen. Deidre M. Henderson  
**Staff:** Allyson R. Hicks (Policy Analyst) / Nathan W. Brady (Policy Analyst) / Michael E. Curtis (Attorney) / Amy Shewan (Attorney) / Jesse Dowdle (Administrative Assistant)

## Government Operations

### **Executive Boards and Commissions**

Discussed progress on the committee's draft legislation, "Executive Boards and Commissions Amendments."

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff regarding policies for the committee's consideration.

### **Department of Veterans and Military Affairs**

Received a [statutorily](#) required [report](#) from the executive director of the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs regarding the department's work over the previous year.

### **Special Service District Bonds**

**Action:** *Approved as a committee bill draft legislation, "[Government Operations Sunset Reauthorizations](#)," which eliminates a sunset date for provisions that allow a special service district to secure bonds with mineral lease revenues.*

**Chairs:** Rep. John Knotwell / Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher  
**Staff:** Brian J. Bean (Policy Analyst) / Thomas R. Vaughn (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

## Health and Human Services

### **Children's Hearing Aid Pilot Program - Sunset Review**

Received an [overview](#) from the Department of Health on the Children's Hearing Aid Pilot Program.

**Action:** *Voted to open a committee bill file to extend the sunset date for the Children's Hearing Aid Pilot Program for five years.*

### **Civil Commitment**

Received a presentation from the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office, the Utah State Hospital, and the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health on:

- the state's civil commitment laws;
- how the current civil commitment system functions;
- challenges and gaps in the system; and

- recommendations for possible solutions.

### **Electronic Cigarettes**

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Alliance for Vaping-Free Kids and Students Against Electronic Vaping on youth use of electronic cigarettes in Utah.

**Action:** *Approved as a committee bill draft legislation, "[Electronic Cigarettes and Other Nicotine Products](#)," which levies a tax on electronic cigarettes and other nontherapeutic nicotine products.*

### **Medicaid Family Planning Services**

Reviewed a statutory provision requiring the Department of Health to report on the impacts of a federal waiver that would allow family planning services to be provided to certain individuals not otherwise eligible for Medicaid.

### **Rural Residency Training Program - Sunset Review**

**Action:** *Approved as a committee bill draft legislation, "[Rural Residency Training Program Reauthorization](#)," to reauthorize the Rural Residency Training Program for five years.*

### **Utah's Mental Health System**

Received a [presentation](#) from the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute and the Utah Hospital Association on the key findings of the "[Utah's Mental Health System: A Collaborative Endeavor of the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute and the Utah Hospital Association](#)" report.

**Chairs:** Rep. Brad M. Daw / Sen. Allen M. Christensen  
**Staff:** Karin M. Rueff (Policy Analyst) / Mark D. Andrews (Policy Analyst) / Daniel M. Cheung (Attorney) / Ericka A. Evans (Attorney) / Rikka Strong (Attorney) / Nathan Erickson (Administrative Assistant)

## Health Reform Task Force

August 22, 2019

### **Sunset Review - Medicaid Eligibility Expansion**

Received a report from the Department of Health on the expansion of Medicaid eligibility pursuant to [pathways](#) established by 2019 S.B. 96, "[Medicaid Expansion Adjustments](#)." The department emphasized that notwithstanding a [recent announcement](#) by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ruling out expansion under one pathway, expansion under another pathway will remain in effect for all persons with income up to 100% of the federal poverty level, as will eligibility for highly subsidized coverage in the federal health insurance marketplace for those with income between 100% and 138% of the federal poverty level. [Enrollment](#) under the expansion implemented April 1, 2019, has increased by about 36,000 individuals and could increase by an additional 43,000 individuals according to original estimates.



## In-Home Care

Received a [report](#) from the Utah Association for Home Care on the impacts of additional funding appropriated for home care services during the 2019 General Session, including potential savings attributable to caring for individuals in home rather than institutional settings.

## Healthcare Costs - Employer Bargaining Power

[Briefed](#) by researchers from Johns Hopkins University on the capacity of Utah employers to bargain with hospitals for lower healthcare prices. The researchers concluded that Utah employers would have to band together to affect prices and discussed attempts by employers in other states to band together.

## Healthcare Costs - Value-Based Insurance Arrangements

Received a [report](#) from the Public Employees Health Program on its response to 2019 General Session S.C.R. 4, "[Concurrent Resolution Directing Creation of a Request for Payment Pilot Program](#)," requiring the program to contract for healthcare services using a value-based payment methodology.

The task force was also [briefed](#) by a panel of stakeholders on the use and potential expansion of value-based plan designs in the private health insurance market.

## Surprise Billing

[Briefed](#) by task force staff on recent changes to proposed federal legislation addressing unexpected billing by out-of-network healthcare providers ("surprise billing").

Also [briefed](#) by a researcher from Johns Hopkins University on surprise billing in Utah and options for addressing the issue. Considered how the cases of two Utahns involving balance billing were recently resolved.

**Chairs:** Rep. James A. Dunnigan / Allen M. Christensen

**Staff:** Mark D. Andrews (Policy Analyst) / Karin M. Rueff (Policy Analyst) / Daniel M. Cheung (Attorney) / Nathan Erickson (Administrative Assistant)

## Judiciary

### Insanity Defense

Heard comments regarding whether Utah should modify the law under which a defendant may plead not guilty to a criminal offense by reason of insanity.

### Failure to Pay Court-Ordered Child Support

Heard from the Attorney General's Office regarding introduced 2019 General Session H.B. 450, "[Criminal Nonsupport Amendments](#)," and discussed how to get parents who fail to pay court-ordered child support to pay their child support.

### Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry

Received the following presentations from the Department of

Corrections and committee staff regarding the [current law](#), history, and statistics related to Utah's Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry database:

- [Sex & Kidnap Offender Registry](#) (Department of Corrections);
- [Utah Sex & Kidnap Offender Registry](#) (Staff); and
- [Overview of Historical Offenses](#) (Staff).

**Action:** Voted to open a committee bill file addressing issues regarding the Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry.

## Uniform Criminal Records Accuracy

Heard from a legislator regarding the fiscal impact of introduced 2019 General Session S.B. 183, "[Uniform Criminal Records Accuracy Act](#)," which would enact the Uniform Law Commission's proposed Uniform Criminal Records Accuracy Act.

## Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Other Protective Arrangements

Heard from a legislator regarding the fiscal impact of introduced 2019 General Session S.B. 53, "[Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Other Protective Arrangements Act](#)," which would enact the Uniform Law Commission's proposed Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Other Protective Arrangements Act.

**Chairs:** Rep. Karianne Lisonbee / Sen. Todd Weiler

**Staff:** Joseph T. Wade (Policy Analyst) / Jacqueline Carlton (Attorney) / Nathan Erickson (Administrative Assistant)

## Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

### Healthcare Access for Inmates

Received a [presentation](#) from the Clinical Services Bureau on inmate access to medical care.

Received presentations from legislators on opioid dependency treatment and access to contraceptives for inmates.

### Privacy, Identity Security, and Internet Fraud

Received a presentation from the Match Group on catfishing scams and other forms of internet fraud.

**Chairs:** Rep. Lee B. Perry / Sen. Keith Grover

**Staff:** John Feinauer (Policy Analyst) / Chelsea Grant (Attorney) / Esther D. Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)



## **Legislative Water Development Commission**

August 20, 2019

### **Central Utah Water Project**

Received a [report](#) from the Central Utah Water Conservancy District on the history and future plans of the Central Utah Water Project.

### **Recommended State Water Strategy**

Received a [report](#) from the State Planning Coordinator on the governor's recommended state water strategy. The commission discussed which [recommended strategies](#) have been implemented.

### **Studies and Recommendations of the Utah Water Task Force and the Executive Water Board**

Received a report from the Utah Water Task Force and the Executive Water Board on the history, membership, studies, and actions of the task force and board.

Chairs: Rep. Keven J. Stratton / Sen. David P. Hinkins

Staff: J Brian Allred (Policy Analyst) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Sidnee Bailey (Administrative Assistant)

## **Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment**

### **Federal Land Disposal Applications**

Received a [report](#) from the [Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office](#) on:

- the office's and coordinator's activities under [Utah Code Section 63J-4-608](#);
- land applications and potential land applications made under federal land disposal law, requesting that the Secretary of the Interior sell or lease certain federal lands;
- decisions of the Secretary of the Interior on land applications submitted by government entities in the state; and
- the quantity of land acquired under the land applications.

### **School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration**

Received a [report](#) from the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration on its history, responsibilities, and future challenges.

### **Sunset Review - Subsection 53C-3-203(4)(b)(vii)**

*Action: Approved as a committee bill draft legislation,*

*"[Land Exchange Distribution Account Amendments](#)," which repeals language related to air quality monitoring, extends the repeal date for certain distributions from the Land Exchange Distribution Account, and makes technical corrections.*

### **Sunset Review - Hazardous Substances Mitigation Act**

*Action: Approved as a committee bill draft legislation, "[Hazardous Substances Mitigation Act Sunset Amendments](#)," which extends the repeal date for the Hazardous Substances Mitigation Act.*

### **Sunset Review - Waste Tire Recycling Act**

*Action: Approved as a committee bill draft legislation, "[Waste Tire Recycling Act Amendments](#)," which:*

- *modifies definitions related to waste tire piles;*
- *increases the number of whole waste tires a person may transfer at one time to a landfill or any other location in the state authorized by the director to receive waste tires;*
- *addresses storage of whole waste tires;*
- *extends the relevant sunset date; and*
- *and makes technical changes.*

### **Utah-Specific Roadless Rule Petition**

Received a report from the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office on Utah's petition to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a [Utah-specific roadless area conservation rule](#).

### **Wildfire Decision Making, Management, and Risk Assessment**

Received a [report](#) from the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands on ways to improve interagency wildfire coordination, decision making, and management. The division also discussed tools for [assessing wildfire risks](#).

Chairs: Rep. Keven J. Stratton / Sen. Ralph Okerlund

Staff: J Brian Allred (Policy Analyst) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Rikka Strong (Attorney) / Sidnee Bailey (Administrative Assistant)

## **Political Subdivisions**

### **Local Government and Limited Purpose Entity Registry Amendments**

Received an overview from committee staff regarding changes made to draft legislation, "[Local Government and Limited Purpose Entity Registry Amendments](#)," for a local government and limited purpose entity registry.

### **Municipal Fiscal Health**

Discussed municipal fiscal health and received an overview of fiscal challenges local governments face when planning for growth.



## Municipal Planning for Growth - Urban Focus

Received a presentation regarding [planning for urban growth](#) with a local and regional focus targeted at land use, transportation, and housing affordability issues. [Regional planning organizations](#), [local elected officials](#), and transportation agencies contributed to the discussion.

Received an [update](#) from the Quality Growth Commission on current projects.

**Chairs:** Rep. Stephen G. Handy / Sen. Jacob L. Anderegg  
**Staff:** Samantha D. Brucker (Policy Analyst) / Victoria Ashby (Attorney) / Sidnee Bailey (Administrative Assistant)

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## Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology

### Flushable Wipes in Sewer Lines and Water Treatment Plants

Received an [overview](#) from Wasatch Front Water Quality Council on the impacts of “flushable wipes” on sewer districts, including costs to communities and potential solutions for community outreach on the issue.

### Universal Public Telecommunications Service Support Fund Cap

Studied the Universal Public Telecommunications Service Support Fund (USF) under [Utah Code Section 54-8b-15](#).

Received a [presentation](#) from the Public Service Commission on the USF’s legislative history and funding as of 2018. The following entities presented on policy considerations related to implementing a cap on the size of the USF:

- [CITA](#);
- AT&T; and
- the [Utah Rural Telecom Association](#).

### Department of Technology Services Chief Information Officer Report

Received the annual [Chief Information Officer Report](#) from the Department of Technology Services pursuant to [Utah Code Section 63F-1-201](#).

### Electrical Grid Resiliency

Received an overview from [Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems](#), Utah Division of Forestry, and [Rocky Mountain Power](#) on baseload power supply and means of enhancing electrical grid resiliency in Utah, including:

- vegetation management strategies in highest-risk fire locations;
- partnerships between state fire officials and utilities to address other weather-related scenarios; and

- other liabilities issues for ensuring a resilient and reliable grid system.

## Heavy-Duty Equipment Emissions and Emissions Control Options

Received overviews from the [Utah Division of Air Quality](#) and the [Union Pacific Railroad](#) on the emissions and emissions control options related to freight switchers, mining equipment, and other heavy-duty equipment.

Discussed equipment regulation and compliance, costs and benefits of emissions control retrofits, and potential impacts on air quality due to equipment enhancements in these areas.

July 31, 2019

## Overview and Tour of Nebo Power Plant & Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems

Received an [overview](#) of Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS), its projects, public power structure, the Nebo Power Plant, and energy distribution from UAMPS and plant representatives.

Discussed and toured the Nebo Power Plant, including the operations and control room, steam generator, turbine, cooling tower, and water cleaning system.

**Chairs:** Rep. Carl R. Albrecht / Sen. Ronald Winterton  
**Staff:** Sarah J. Balland (Policy Analyst) / Shannon C. Halverson (Attorney) / Cherish Cosman (Administrative Assistant)

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## Revenue and Taxation

### Acquisition Cost Definition

Discussed draft legislation, “[Acquisition Cost Definition](#),” which defines acquisition cost in the property tax code as the purchase price of a new or used item.

***Action:** Approved as a committee bill draft legislation, “Acquisition Cost Definition.”*

### Certified Tax Rate Calculation Amendments

Discussed draft legislation, “[Certified Tax Rate Calculation Amendments](#),” which modifies the definition of incremental value to include project areas created under Title 11, Chapter 58, Utah Inland Port Authority Act; Title 63H, Chapter 1, Military Installation Development Authority Act; and Title 63N, Chapter 1, Part 5, New Convention Facility Development Incentives.

### Income Tax Treatment of Nonresident Wages

Discussed draft legislation, “[Nonresident Income Amendments](#),” which provides that a salary, a wage, a commission, or compensation received for personal services rendered within the state is derived from Utah sources and excludes a salary, a wage, a commission, or compensation received for personal services rendered from business income.





*Action: Approved as a committee bill draft legislation, "Nonresident Income Amendments."*

## Property Assessment Procedure Amendments

Discussed draft legislation, "[Property Assessment Procedure Amendments](#)," which repeals certain authority of the State Tax Commission to adjust and equalize the valuation of taxable property.

## Sales and Use Taxation of Fuels

Received a presentation and discussed situations where a property may receive fuel through a single meter but have more than one type of use of the fuel at that location. Current statute provides for different tax treatment for residential, commercial, and industrial uses of fuel. Options were discussed on how to codify the determination of primary use of fuel at such a location.

## Sales and Use Taxation of Fuels Used in Condominium and Short-Term Rentals

Received a presentation and discussed whether the use of fuels in condominiums that are in a rental pool or short-term rental properties should be considered residential or commercial use.

## Sales Taxes on Motor Vehicles

Discussed draft legislation, "[Sales Taxes on Motor Vehicles](#)," which provides that when a dealer sells an aircraft, manufactured home, mobile home, modular home, motor vehicle, or watercraft over the Internet, the location of the transaction is where the purchaser takes receipt of the property.

*Action: The committee recommended as a committee bill draft legislation, "Sales Taxes on Motor Vehicles."*

## Status Update of 2018 Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee Bills

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff on the status of all the bills considered by the 2018 Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee.

## Tax Restructuring and Equalization

Received a brief report from the cochair of the Tax Restructuring and Equalization Task Force regarding the "Listening Phase" of the task force, which included holding eight town hall meetings across the state. Also received an update on the task force's "Study Phase," during which the task force will consider and analyze policy options.

**Chairs:** Rep. Robert M. Spendlove / Sen. Lincoln Fillmore  
**Staff:** Alex R. Janak (Policy Analyst) / Ryan M. Hunter (Policy Analyst) / Andrea Valenti Arthur (Attorney) / Christine R. Gilbert (Attorney) / Jesse Dowdle (Administrative Assistant)

## Tax Restructuring and Equalization Task Force

### Revenue Imbalance Challenges

The task force held town hall meetings across the state on:

- June 25, 2019;
- June 27, 2019;
- June 28, 2019;
- June 29, 2019;
- July 8, 2019;
- July 9, 2019;
- July 20, 2019; and
- July 30, 2019.

At each meeting, the task force viewed a [video](#) and received a [presentation](#) from task force staff regarding the challenges posed by the state's current revenue imbalance.

August 19, 2019

### Listening Phase Report

Received a [presentation](#) and [report](#) from task force staff describing the public feedback received at the eight town hall meetings the task force held throughout the state in June and July.

### Revenue Imbalance Challenges

Received presentations from [staff](#) and the [State Tax Commission](#) describing the history of the state's revenue imbalance and verifying the challenge the state faces.

### Tax Restructuring Policy Options

Received a [presentation](#) from staff outlining several policy options suggested by the public for consideration to address the state's revenue imbalance challenge. These options included restoring the full state sales tax rate on some or all food purchases and creating tax relief through mechanisms such as a grocery tax credit, an earned income tax credit (EITC), a Social Security benefits income tax credit, a military veteran's retirement benefits income tax credit, and an income tax rate reduction.

**Chairs:** Rep. Francis D. Gibson / Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard  
**Staff:** Alex R. Janak (Policy Analyst) / Ryan M. Hunter (Policy Analyst) / Andrea Valenti Arthur (Attorney) / Christine R. Gilbert (Attorney) / Jesse Dowdle (Administrative Assistant)





## Transportation

### **Draft Legislation, "Towing Signage Revisions"**

Discussed draft legislation, "[Towing Signage Revisions](#)," amending Utah Code provisions regarding signage requirements for towing from private property.

### **Transit Improvements with New UTA Resources**

Received a [presentation](#) focusing on projects made possible through the resources provided by 2015 General Session H.B. 362, "[Transportation Infrastructure Funding](#)," which authorized counties to impose a sales and use tax for highways and public transit.

### **State Airplane Fleet Update**

Received an [update](#) to an aeronautics report presented in the June 19 meeting and received options for how the state should go forward with its approach to providing airplanes for state use.

### **State Transportation Systems Report**

Received an annual, statutorily required joint report from the [Department of Transportation](#) and the [Transportation Commission](#) addressing "the operation, maintenance, condition, mobility, and safety needs for state transportation systems" (Utah Code Subsection 72-1-201 (1)(i)).

### **Utah Transit Authority and Public-Private Partnerships**

Received a statutorily required [report](#) on the Utah Transit Authority's efforts "to engage in public-private partnerships for public transit services" (Utah Code Subsection 17B-2a-808.1(2)(i)) that focused on efforts to increase transportation mobility.

**Chairs:** Rep. Kay J. Christofferson / Sen. Wayne A. Harper  
**Staff:** Art L. Hunsaker (Policy Analyst) / Ryan M. Hunter (Policy Analyst) / Gus Harb (Attorney) / Kurt P. Gasser (Attorney) / Cherish Cosman (Administrative Assistant)

## Veterans and Military Affairs Commission

June 25, 2019

### **Draft legislation, "Veterans Preference in Private Employment"**

Discussed whether to extend Veterans Preference in employment to include currently serving members of the armed forces and spouses of veterans or currently serving member of the armed forces.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill draft legislation, "[Veterans Preference in Private Employment](#)," allowing the Department of Workforce Services to assist, as permitted by law, a private employer in verifying if a job

*applicant is a currently serving member of the armed forces or a spouse of a veteran or currently serving member of the armed forces.*

### **Utah State University Equine Assisted Program**

Received an [update](#) on Utah State University's Equine Assisted Program, the services it provides to veterans, and its plans for developing a new therapeutic facility.

**Action:** Approved an expression of support for Utah State University's Equine Assisted Program and for the services it provides to veterans.

### **Veterans Court**

Received a [presentation](#) from two district court judges, their staff, and representatives of the Salt Lake Veterans Administration regarding veterans courts, how they are formed and maintained, and the feasibility of and requirements for establishing additional veterans courts in Utah.

**Action:** Approved an expression of support for establishing additional veterans courts in the state.

**Chairs:** Rep. Paul Ray / Sen. Todd Weiler  
**Staff:** Art L. Hunsaker (Policy Analyst) / Samantha D. Brucker (Policy Analyst) / Esther D. Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

