



Interim Highlights

October 2022, Vol. 22, No. 4



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Legislative Interim Meetings

Meetings were held October, 19, 2022, or as noted

Administrative Rules Review and General Oversight Committee

October 20, 2022

Administrative Rules Reauthorization Legislation

Action: Voted to open a committee bill to reauthorize all administrative rules except those identified by the committee.

Charter School Satellite Authorization

Discussed [R277-552-7\(2\)\(c\)](#) and the process by which the Utah Charter School Board authorizes charter school satellites. Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff and heard from stakeholders regarding whether a clarification to the rule is warranted.

Kinship Preference

Discussed relevant statute and administrative rules that require the Division of Child and Family Services and the juvenile court to provide preferential consideration to a child's relative when making placement decisions after the child has been removed from parental custody. Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff and heard stakeholders' perspectives on the process and requirements involved when determining where to place a child.

Chairs: Rep. Brady Brammer / Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Staff: Jonathan Adams (Policy Analyst) / Megan L. Bolin (Deputy Director, Public Policy and Administration) / Victoria Ashby (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

Business and Labor

Audit: Budget Review of the Insurance

Department

Received a [presentation](#) about the Office of the Legislative Auditor General's budget review of the Insurance Department. The [audit](#) identified concerns in the Captive Insurance Division and the Insurance Fraud Division. The audit made the following findings and recommendations:

- concluded captive insurance provides the state with less economic benefit than originally estimated;
- provided options to increase the economic benefit of captive insurance;
- questioned whether it is appropriate for the Captive Insurance Division to promote the industry given its role as regulator; and
- recommended the Insurance Fraud Division provide antifraud education programs for insurers and the public.

Prioritization of Licensing Reviews

Reviewed a [list](#) of occupational licenses proposed for periodic review by the Office of Professional Licensure Review (OPLR) in 2023. OPLR proposed periodic review of mental and behavioral health licenses within the Department of Commerce and Department of Health and Human Services to address Utah's mental health crisis and shortage of mental health professionals. Received a [presentation](#) addressing how the reviews will be conducted and expected deliverables.

Action: Voted to approve the proposed list of occupational licenses for periodic review in 2023 and to submit a copy of the approved list to the Legislative Management Committee in accordance with Utah Code Section [13-1b-303](#).

Public Expression Protection

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Public Expression Protection Act](#)," which would enact the Uniform Public Expression Protection Act and:

- create a process for a claim asserted against a person for communication in, or on an issue under consideration in, certain governmental proceedings or exercising certain rights under the United States Constitution or Utah Constitution;
- require a court to award costs, attorney fees, and other litigation expenses under certain circumstances;
- include a severability clause; and
- repeal the Citizenship Participation in Government Act.

Required Reports

Discussed the following reports that were received in accordance with statutory reporting requirements:

- [Status of Legal Funding in the State](#);
- [Proposed List of Regulated Occupations for Calendar Year 2023 Periodic Review](#);
- [Residence Lien Recovery Fund 2021 Report](#);
- [Residual Workers' Compensation Market Annual Report](#);
- [Utah Office of Regulatory Relief Annual Report](#); and
- [Voluntary Home Energy Information Pilot Program Act Report](#).

Unfair Practices Act

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Unfair Practices Act Amendments](#)," which would repeal the Unfair Practices Act because the act's policies are provided in greater particularity in other areas of the code.

Chairs: Rep. Timothy D. Hawkes / Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Staff: Adam J. Sweet (Policy Analyst) / Ericka A. Evans (Managing Associate General Counsel) / Amy Shewan (Attorney) / Royce Gador (Administrative Assistant)

Criminal Code Evaluation Task Force

October 20, 2022

Criminal Code Recodification

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff on technical changes made within Title 76, Chapter 6, Offenses Against Property, as the result of feedback from the Utah Attorney General's Office.

Action: Voted to support 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Criminal Code Recodification and Cross References](#)," with the addition of the changes suggested during the meeting.

Discussion of Task Force Report

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff about the task force report required to be submitted to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee and the Legislative Management Committee before November 30 of each year.

Protective Order Amendments

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff on 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Protective Order Amendments](#)," which concerns jail release agreements and jail release court orders. Received comments from the Statewide Association of Prosecutors and the Utah Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers about proposed changes to Utah Code Section [78B-7-802\(4\)\(c\)](#).

Action: Voted to approve 2023 General Session draft legislation, "Protective Order Amendments," without the proposed changes to Utah Code Section [78B-7-802\(4\)\(c\)](#).

Chairs: Rep. Matthew H. Gwynn / Sen. Karen Mayne
Staff: John Feinauer (Managing Policy Analyst) / Sarah Flanigan (Policy Analyst) / Shad Larson (Attorney) / Esther D. Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Jackie Rogers (Attorney) / Taylor Calabrese (Administrative Assistant)

Digital Wellness, Citizenship, and Safe Technology Commission

October 18, 2022

Commission Discussion

Heard from committee staff about committee scheduling issues before and during the upcoming 2023 General Session and about the request for proposal process, including considerations for the commission when determining how to expend money appropriated to the commission.

Discussed the ongoing efforts of the working groups and a survey prepared to help guide the work of creating an informational website with resources on digital literacy and digital safety.

Safetech Conference

Heard a presentation from Safetech about its upcoming conference for families on digital education and safety

Chairs: Rep. Jon Hawkins / Sen. Derrin R. Owens
Staff: Micah Ann Wixom (Policy Analyst) / Amy Shewan (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

Economic Development and Workforce Services

Housing Affordability

Heard reports on the status of the Utah housing market from the [Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute](#), programs offered by the state to address housing affordability from the [Department of Workforce Services and Utah Housing Corporation](#), and barriers to the development of affordable housing from the Wasatch Advantage Group.

Point of the Mountain State Land Authority

Received an [update](#) from the Point of the Mountain State Land Authority on the status of the development project and upcoming milestones.

Utah Department of Transportation 2022 Housing Units Report

Received a [report](#) from the Utah Department of Transportation on the number of housing units and the number of moderate-income housing units that were permanently vacated or destroyed because of the department's action in fiscal year 2022.

Utah State Flag

Discussed the work of the State Flag Task Force and the creation of a new state flag.

Action: Voted to open a committee bill file to adopt the recommendations of the State Flag Task Force.

Chairs: Rep. Stephen G. Handy / Sen. Ronald M. Winterton
Staff: Chris Stitt (Policy Analyst) / Gus Harb (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

Education

Local School Boards

Heard from various stakeholders about their desire for more accountability for local school boards, including improvements to the Political Subdivisions Ethics Review Commission created in 2012 General Session S.B. 180, "[Political Subdivision Ethics Amendments](#)." The stakeholders also provided a [letter](#) and [news article](#) describing some of their concerns.

Sensitive Materials in Schools

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff summarizing components of 2022 General Session H.B. 374, "[Sensitive Materials in Schools](#)." Heard a [presentation](#) from a legislator on the bill and implementation progress.

Heard a [report](#) from the State Board of Education, as required in Utah Code Section [53G-10-103](#), on its implementation of and compliance with provisions enacted in the legislation.

State Board of Education Legislative Priorities

Heard from the State Board of Education regarding its [legislative policy](#) and [funding priorities](#) for the 2023 General Session.

Chairs: Rep. V. Lowry Snow / Sen. John D. Johnson
Staff: Alex R. Janak (Managing Policy Analyst) / Micah Ann Wixom (Policy Analyst) / Rhonda Bailey (Attorney) / Mike Curtis (Managing Associate General Counsel) / Taylor Calabrese (Administrative Assistant)



Education and Mental Health Coordinating Council

October 12, 2022

Council Discussion of 2022 Recommendations

Discussed the outlook for the remainder of the year and what will need to be accomplished in the coming weeks to produce a statutorily required report of the council's findings and recommendations.

September Council Meeting Follow-up

Discussed the status of research surrounding Medicaid reimbursement and strategies to expand access to mental health screenings, assessments, and treatment available to Medicaid-enrolled children. Also discussed efforts within the Department of Health and Human Services to compile information about all mental health, substance use, and suicide prevention resources and programs throughout the state.

State Board of Education Mental Health Efforts

Received a [presentation](#) from State Board of Education about current mental health programs throughout Utah's schools and goals for increasing services.

Utah System of Higher Education Mental Health Efforts

Received a [presentation](#) from Utah System of Higher Education about current mental health programs at Utah's post-secondary institutions and recommendations for increasing services.

Utah Youth Suicide Research Project

Received a [presentation](#) from the Office of the Medical Examiner about the Utah Youth Suicide Research Project and heard recommendations to prevent youth suicide.

Chairs: Rep. Melissa G. Ballard / Rebecca Dutson
Staff: Seth Anderson (Policy Analyst) / Rhonda Bailey (Attorney) / Michelle Clifford (Administrative Assistant)



Federalism Commission

October 17, 2022

Cost of Federal Decarbonization Policies

Received a [presentation](#) from a professor with Washington University in St. Louis regarding the estimated full cost of federal energy policies to individuals and communities. The commission discussed the costs of focusing energy policy on climate damage instead of addressing energy security, costs, and environmental security.

Federalism Policy Tracker and Federalism Index

Received a presentation from a professor and staff at the Utah Valley University Center for Constitutional Studies regarding a federalism [issue tracker](#) and discussed federal actions that the commission members would like to study.

Phoenix Correspondence Commission Report

Received a [presentation](#) from the Phoenix Correspondence Commission regarding the work that the group has done to coordinate efforts between states to call a future Article V convention. Discussed how Utah can support the work of the Phoenix Correspondence Commission.

Chairs: Rep. Keven J. Stratton / Sen. Ronald M. Winterton
Staff: Nathan W. Brady (Policy Analyst) / Robert H. Rees (Attorney) / Jacqueline Carlton (Attorney) / Finn Andrew Rose (Administrative Assistant)

Government Operations

Executive Boards and Commissions

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Boards and Commissions Amendments](#)," which would address reporting requirements relating to an executive board.

Juvenile Offender Penalty Amendments

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Juvenile Offender Penalty Amendments](#)," which would modify the sentencing of a juvenile offender for certain sexual offenses in district court.

Local Official Amendments

Reviewed 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Local Official Amendments](#)," which would provide direction in statute regarding when a city council may make changes to executive responsibilities.

Sensitive Instructional Materials

Received a [report](#) from the State Board of Education on the implementation of and compliance with the requirement that it provide guidance and training to support public schools in identifying materials that meet the definition of sensitive materials.

State Commemorative Periods

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[State Commemorative Periods Amendments](#)," which would modify provisions related to commemorative periods and address the repeal of commemorative periods.

State Initiative Process

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Initiative and Referendum Modifications](#)," which would amend provisions relating to initiatives and referenda.

Voter Residency Requirements

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Voting and Voter Residency Amendments](#)," which would amend elections provisions, including residency provisions for voting and running for office, and provisions relating to uniformed and overseas voters.

Voter Signature Verification

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Voter Signature Verification Amendments](#)," which would address voter signature verification and voter accessibility.

Chairs: Rep. A. Cory Maloy / Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher
Staff: Lisa Sorensen (Policy Analyst) / Michael Cipriano (Attorney) / Thomas R. Vaughn (Managing Associate General Counsel) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

Health and Human Services

Committee Business

Action: Voted to open a committee bill file to facilitate the recodification of the health and human services statutes related to the creation of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage

Action: Voted to amend, and approved as a committee bill, 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Medicaid Dental Waiver Amendments](#)," which would require the Department of Health and Human Services to request authorization to provide dental services to Medicaid-eligible adults not already eligible for dental services.

Medicaid Mental Healthcare for Adults

Received a presentation from a legislator about expanding Medicaid coverage for adults experiencing mental health issues.

Medical Cannabis Governance Structure Working Group Report

Received a [report](#) on recommendations from the Medical Cannabis Governance Structure Working Group.

Action: Voted to open a committee bill file to implement the provisions of the Medical Cannabis Governance Structure Working Group report.

State Plan on Aging

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Commission on Aging and a legislator on 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Master Plan on Aging](#)," which would amend the duties and powers of the Utah Commission on Aging and direct the commission to prepare and publish a 10-year master plan for aging.

Sunset Review: Assisted Living Facility Transfers

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Long Term Care Ombudsman Amendments](#)," which would remove a sunset date and amend requirements for certain facility-initiated transfers or discharges of a resident.

Sunset Review: Behavioral Health Crisis Response Commission

Discussed 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Behavioral Health Crisis Response Commission Amendments](#)," which would extend the sunset of the commission and make amendments to its membership and duties.



Sunset Review: Utah Marriage Commission

Dedicated Credits

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff on dedicated credits received by the Utah Marriage Commission that will become lapsing on July 1, 2023, absent further action by the Legislature.

Action: Voted to open a committee bill file to repeal the sunset of the Utah Marriage Commission's dedicated credits and allow their non-lapsing status to continue.

Treatment of Gender Dysphoria in Minors

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Sex Characteristic Surgical Procedures](#)," which would prohibit certain medical procedures related to treatment of gender dysphoria in minors.

Chairs: Rep. Merrill F. Nelson / Sen. Michael S. Kennedy
Staff: Mark D. Andrews (Policy Analyst) / Seth Anderson (Policy Analyst) / Victoria Ashby (Attorney) / Christopher Williams (Attorney) / Daniel M. Cheung (Attorney) / Naomi Garrow (Administrative Assistant)

Judiciary

Attorney Fees

Heard from a legislator on the issue of recovering attorney and expert fees in certain civil actions against a government entity.

Expungement of Juvenile Records

Heard from committee staff and legislators on a committee bill regarding the expungement of certain juvenile records.

Mental Health and Criminal Justice

Received an update from a legislative working group exploring ways to improve the criminal justice system as it relates to individuals with mental illness.

Waiver of Punitive Damages

Received a presentation from committee staff on a committee bill that would address the call for legislative action in *doTERRA International v. Kruger* (2021) regarding waivers of punitive damages in contracts.

Chairs: Rep. Jon Hawkins / Sen. Todd D. Weiler
Staff: Jonathan Adams (Policy Analyst) / Michael Cipriano (Attorney) / Jacqueline Carlton (Attorney) / Naomi Garrow (Administrative Assistant)

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Arson Amendments

Received a presentation from a legislator on 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Arson Amendments](#)," which would amend the definition of "habitable structure." This draft legislation was recommended to the committee by the Criminal Code Evaluation Task Force.

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "Arson Amendments."

DNA Rape Kit Testing and Unrelated Crimes

Discussed a committee bill file opened to address victim privacy concerns by prohibiting the use of DNA gathered from rape kits for investigating unrelated crimes. The Salt Lake County District Attorney's office testified that the law currently prohibits using a victim's DNA gathered from a rape kit to investigate unrelated crimes.

Drug Possession Penalty Amendments

Received a presentation from a legislator on 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Drug Possession Penalty Amendments](#)," which would amend the definition of a restricted person in possession of a dangerous weapon and a controlled substance and reduce the penalty, in certain circumstances, for a restricted person in possession of marijuana.

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "Drug Possession Penalty Amendments."

Jail and Prison Deaths

Received a presentation from a legislator about the increase in jail and prison deaths as well as policy options to address the increase.

Mentally Ill Offenders

Received a presentation from a legislator on 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Mental Health Support and Law Enforcement Co-Response](#)," which would create a grant program for expanded mobile crisis intervention teams to be administered by the Division of Integrated Healthcare.

Action: Approved as a committee bill draft legislation, "Mental Health Support and Law Enforcement Co-Response."

Performance Audit of Healthcare in State Prisons

Received a [presentation](#) from the Office of the Legislative Auditor General on the findings of [report](#) Number 2021-17. Received a [response](#) to the audit from the Department of Corrections.

Sentencing Guidelines

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Sentencing Commission about updates to sentencing guidelines, the collateral consequence guide, and the Utah Sentencing Commission's annual report.

Weapons Possession Amendments

Received a presentation from a legislator on 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Weapons Possession Amendments](#)," which would amend provisions relating to the possession of a weapon by amending the definition of a Category II restricted person relating to domestic violence.

Chairs: Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox / Sen. Keith Grover
Staff: John Feinauer (Managing Policy Analyst) / Sarah Flanigan (Policy Analyst) / Shad Larson (Attorney) / Esther D. Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Jackie Rogers (Attorney) / Taylor Calabrese (Administrative Assistant)

Legislative Management Committee

October 18, 2022

Settlement Agreements

Heard a request from the Division of Risk Management for approval by the Legislative Management Committee (LMC) to settle a claim.

Action: Voted to recommend that the Division of Risk Management execute the financial settlement agreement.

Heard a request from the Utah Attorney General's Office for approval by the LMC to settle a claim.

Action: Voted to recommend that the Attorney General's Office execute the financial settlement agreement.

Federalism Commission Report

Heard a report from the chairs of the Federalism Commission and also received a demonstration of a tracker used by Utah Valley University to report on federal actions that may violate the principles of federalism.

Chairs: Rep. Brad Wilson / Sen. J. Stewart Adams
Staff: John Q. Cannon (Director) / John L. Fellows (General Counsel) / Amy Hawkes (Executive Assistant)

Legislative Water Development Commission

October 20, 2022

Draft Legislation: Emergency Water Shortages Amendments

Discussed 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Emergency Water Shortages Amendments](#)," which would address temporary emergency shortages of water declared by the governor.

Groundwater

Received a [presentation](#) from the state engineer about groundwater management, including current standards and recommendations for the future.

Pine Valley Water Supply Project

Received comments from a legislator and a [presentation](#), [poster](#), [handout](#), and [booklet](#) from the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District about the proposed Pine Valley Water Supply Project.

Chairs: Rep. Casey Snider / Sen. David P. Hinkins
Staff: Charley Hart (Policy Analyst) / Julie Humberstone (Policy Analyst) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Amy Shewan (Attorney) / Finn Andrew Rose (Administrative Assistant)

Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force

October 15, 2022

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation Staff Introduction

Received an introduction to the staff of the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, the research entity that will provide the [statutorily required report](#) and policy recommendations to the Legislature at the culmination of the task force's work. Discussed the work plan for the report.

Listening Session

Held a listening session where members of the community shared their stories and experiences regarding murdered and missing relatives in Utah and experiences with law enforcement.

Minnesota Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force Update

Received an update and a [presentation](#) on the Minnesota Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force and its work to address the issue of murdered and missing indigenous relatives over the past year. Discussed how Utah can implement similar policies.

Chairs: Rep. Angela Romero / Sen. David P. Hinkins
Staff: Kristina King (Policy Analyst) / Amy Shewan (Attorney) / Royce Gador (Administrative Assistant)

Native American Legislative Liaison Committee

October 17, 2022

Division of Indian Affairs Report

Heard a [report](#) from the Division of Indian Affairs regarding its activities and accomplishments over fiscal year 2022.

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

Heard a [proposal](#) from the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation to create a state ICWA statute.

Action: Voted to open a committee bill file to create a state ICWA statute.

Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force

Discussed 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force Sunset Extension](#)," that would:

- change the name of the task force to the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Task Force;
- extend the task force's repeal date from November 30, 2023, to November 30, 2024; and
- extend the deadline for the required report from the task force to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee from November 30, 2023, to November 30, 2024.

Action: Voted to favorably recommend as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force Sunset Extension."

Native American Education

Received a [presentation](#) on Native American education in Utah and a [statutorily required report](#) from grant recipients in [San Juan School District](#) and [Uintah School District](#) on the grants they received under the [American Indian and Alaska Native Education State Program](#).

Office of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Health and Family Services

Heard from the new Office of AI/AN Health and Family Services within the Department of Health and Human Services. Also received two [statutorily required reports](#) from the office's [Indian Health Liaison](#) and [Indian Child Welfare Act Liaison](#). The office also provided its [2022 American Indian and Alaska Native Health Status Report](#).

Tribal Government 101

Received a [presentation](#) from the Division of Indian Affairs on tribal governments.

Chairs: Rep. Christine F. Watkins / Sen. David P. Hinkins
Staff: Julie Humberstone (Policy Analyst) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Royce Gador (Administrative Assistant)

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

Domesticated Elk

Received an [update](#) from committee staff about work on a committee bill that would address issues facing the Domesticated Elk Program. Received comment from the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food about the program and next steps.

Draft Legislation: Emergency Water Shortages Amendments

Discussed 2023 General Session amended draft legislation, "[Emergency Water Shortages Amendments](#)," which would address temporary emergency shortages of water declared by the governor. Received comments from the state engineer, the Utah Farm Bureau, and the Janet Quinney Lawson Institute for Land, Water and Air.

Action: Voted to take a position of encouragement and support for the continued work on 2023 General Session draft legislation, "Emergency Water Shortages Amendments."

Draft Legislation: Outdoor Recreation Amendments

Discussed 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Outdoor Recreation Amendments](#)," which would require the Division of Outdoor Recreation to prepare a recreation management plan for Provo Canyon.

Action: Voted to favorably recommend as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "Outdoor Recreation Amendments."

Draft Legislation: Radon Related Amendments

Discussed 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Radon Related Amendments](#)," which would enact the Radon Gas Act. Received comments from the Utah Association of Realtors about current radon mitigation regulations.

Draft Legislation: Water Related Liability Amendments

Discussed 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Water Related Liability Amendments](#)," which would modify provisions related to the liability of owners or operators of water facilities, streams, or rivers and related trails. Received comments from the Utah Association for Justice and the Utah Farm Bureau.

Action: Voted to favorably recommend as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "Water Related Liability Amendments."

Saline Aquifers

Received a [presentation](#) from a legislator about the possibility of accessing water from deep saline aquifers to address the decreased Great Salt Lake level. Received comments from a Brigham Young University professor about the role of modular molten salt reactors in these efforts.

Small-Scale Wastewater Recycling

Received a [presentation](#), [a list of ongoing projects in Utah](#), and a [summary](#) from Busse West LLC about advanced scalable membrane bioreactor (MBR) wastewater treatment systems. Received comments from a Utah dairy farmer about the advantages of MBR technology.

Wildlife Code Recodification

Received an update from committee staff about the 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Wildlife Resources Code Recodification](#)," and its companion bill, "[Wildlife Resources Recodification Cross References](#)."

Received a [recodification overview](#) and a [handout](#) comparing the old and new code sections.

Action: Voted to favorably recommend as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "Wildlife Resources Code Recodification."

Action: Voted to favorably recommend as a committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "Wildlife Resources Recodification Cross References."

Wolf Update

Received a [presentation](#) from a lobbyist about Northern Grey Wolves in the Western United States.

Chairs: Rep. Keven J. Stratton / Sen. Scott D. Sandall
Staff: Charley Hart (Policy Analyst) / Julie Humberstone (Policy Analyst) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Amy Shewan (Attorney) / Finn Andrew Rose (Administrative Assistant)

Political Subdivisions

Impact of Long Trains on Safety

Received presentations from SMART Transportation, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, Union Pacific Railroad Company, and the Utah League of Cities and Towns on the impact of long trains on public safety.

Responsibilities of County Sheriffs in Counties of the First Class

Received comments from the Mayor of Mill Creek, the Salt Lake County Council, the South Jordan City Chief of Police, and the Salt County Sheriff's Office regarding the duties and responsibilities of the county sheriff in counties of the first class and the role of the Salt Lake County sheriff with regard to the Unified Police Department.

Short-term Rental Properties

Received comments from a legislator on possible changes intended to address issues related to short-term rental properties, such as sales tax licenses and fines based on advertisements.

Chairs: Rep. James A. Dunnigan / Sen. Michael K. McKell
Staff: Nathan W. Brady (Policy Analyst) / Greg Gunn (Attorney) / Michelle Clifford (Administrative Assistant)

Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology

Utah's Exposure and Mitigating Risk to Public Utilities

Received a [presentation](#) from a professor with Utah State University on Utah's vulnerability in the case of a seismic event of magnitude 7.0 or higher along the Wasatch fault. Discussed options for ongoing preparations to reduce risks and vulnerabilities to public utilities.

Energy Regulation Transparency

Received a [presentation](#) from a professor with Washington University in St. Louis on the cost difference between more traditional forms of energy (coal, gas, etc.) and renewable energy resources.

Radio Upgrades Update

Received a [presentation](#) from Utah Communications Authority on how the end-user radio upgrade project is going in terms of timeline, budget, and coordination with local agencies.

Statutorily Required Report: Project Entity Oversight Committee

Heard from the Office of Energy Development on its efforts to put together the Project Entity Oversight Committee, which plans to hold its first meeting on November 1.

Chairs: Rep. Carl R. Albrecht / Sen. David P. Hinkins
Staff: Samantha D. Brucker (Managing Policy Analyst) / Scott Elder (Attorney) / Finn Andrew Rose (Administrative Assistant)

Revenue and Taxation

Economic Incentives

Heard a [presentation](#) from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity on economic incentives provided by the state to certain industries. Also received [information](#) on the work of the Utah Sports Commission.

Income Tax Credits Review

Received information from the Occupational and Professional Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and the State Tax Commission on several [tax credits](#) and conducted reviews of the credits as required by Utah Code [Section 59-7-159](#).

Income Tax Fiscal Impacts of Potential Rate Cuts

Received a [presentation](#) from the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst regarding the fiscal impacts of potential income tax rate cuts.

Leased Tangible Personal Property Tax Amendments

Discussed 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Leased Tangible Personal Property Tax Amendments](#)," which would address the application of sales and use tax to lease buyout transactions.

***Action:** Approved as an amended committee bill 2023 General Session draft legislation, "Leased Tangible Personal Property Tax Amendments."*

Water Property Tax Amendments

Discussed 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Water Property Tax Amendments](#)," which would modify local property tax authority related to water.

Chairs: Rep. Casey Snider / Sen. Daniel McCay
Staff: Kristina King (Policy Analyst) / Andrea Valenti Arthur (Attorney) / Christine R. Gilbert (Managing Associate General Counsel) / Scott Elder (Attorney) / Royce Gador (Administrative Assistant)



Senate Judicial Confirmation

October 11, 2022

Confirmation of Alex Goble

Action: Recommended to the Senate the confirmation of Alex Goble as a judge of the Sixth District Juvenile Court.

October 17, 2022

Confirmation of Blaine Rawson

Action: Recommended to the Senate the confirmation of Blaine Rawson as a judge of the Second District Court.

Confirmation of John Luthy

Action: Recommended to the Senate the confirmation of John Luthy as a judge of the Utah Court of Appeals.

Chairs: Sen. Todd D. Weiler

Staff: Jonathan Adams (Policy Analyst) / Eric N. Weeks (Deputy General Counsel) / Naomi Garrow (Administrative Assistant)

Subcommittee on Oversight

October 18, 2022

Certification of the FY 2024 Legislative Budget to the Governor

Action: Voted to recommend that the president and speaker certify to the governor the fiscal year 2024 budget for the Utah State Legislature as shown on page one of the [handout](#).

Legislative Staff Offices' FY 2024 Budgets

Action: Voted to approve the fiscal year 2024 budgets of the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, the Office of the Legislative Auditor General, and Legislative Services.

Chairs: Speaker Brad R. Wilson / President J. Stuart Adams

Staff: Megan L. Bolin (Deputy Director, Public Policy and Administration) / Eric N. Weeks (Deputy General Counsel) / Amy Hawkes (Executive Assistant)

Transportation

Current and Future Traffic Mitigation Plans

Received information from Wasatch Front Regional Council and presentations from [Mountainland Association of Governments](#), [Utah Department of Transportation](#), and [Salt Lake County](#) on the Marda Dillree Corridor Preservation Fund, the Local Highway and Transportation Corridor Preservation Fund, and other local corridor preservation funds that have received state appropriations.

Large Infrastructure Projects Update

Received a [presentation](#) on the Utah Department of Transportation's plan to assume management of all fixed guideway capital development projects, including FrontRunner strategic double tracking and Point of the Mountain Transit, within a large public transit district for which state funds are expended.

Draft Legislation: Motor Vehicle Registration Amendments

Action: Voted to favorably recommend 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Motor Vehicle Registration Amendments](#)," which would:

- clarify when the State Tax Commission may impose a registration reinstatement fee;
- create the License Plate Restricted Account;
- repeal the honorary consulate special group license plate; and
- provide that appropriations from the restricted account are nonlapsing.

Draft Legislation: License Plate Amendments

Action: Voted to favorably recommend 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[License Plate Amendments](#)," which would modify provisions related to standard issue license plates, personalized license plates, and special group license plates.

Draft Legislation: Road Jurisdiction Amendments

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Department of Transportation on 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Road Jurisdiction Amendments](#)," which would amend descriptions for three state roads.

Action: Voted to favorably recommend 2023 General Session draft legislation, "Road Jurisdiction Amendments."

Roadway Safety

Received a [joint presentation](#) from Utah Highway Patrol and Utah Department of Transportation on wrong way and reckless driving.

Transit Efficiency and Speed

Received a [presentation](#) from Utah Transit Authority on investments and strategies to reduce time spent in transit, increase reliability, and improve frequency.

Chairs: Rep. Kay J. Christofferson / Sen. Wayne A. Harper

Staff: Alma Weber (Policy Analyst) / Kurt P. Gasser (Attorney) / Michelle Clifford (Administrative Assistant)

Veterans and Military Affairs Commission

October 18, 2022

Disabled Veteran Property Tax Abatement

Heard from a legislator and received public comment regarding property tax abatements for disabled veterans.

Freedom's Memorial Plaza

Received a presentation from Layton City regarding Freedom's Memorial Plaza, a memorial plaza dedicated to the nation's commitment to freedom and the men and women who have served to secure that freedom, which will be located near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Replica in Layton Commons Park.

Title 71 Recodification

Reviewed 2023 General Session draft legislation, "[Title 71a - Veterans and Military Affairs](#)," which would restructure, reorganize, and rewrite provisions of Title 71, Veterans, and create Title 71A, Veterans and Military Affairs.

Action: Voted to support 2023 General Session draft legislation, "Title 71a - Veterans and Military Affairs."

Utah Joint Agile Combat Employment Exercise

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Air National Guard regarding a recent joint agile combat employment (ACE) exercise in which airmen received cross-utilization training to support their capability to accomplish tasks outside of their core Air Force Specialty.

Veterans Treatment Court

Received an update from the Administrative Office of the Courts regarding the expansion of the Veterans Treatment Court program to other areas of the state.

Chairs: Rep. Jefferson S. Burton / Sen. Todd D. Weiler
Staff: Lisa Sorensen (Policy Analyst) / Esther D. Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Kurt P. Gasser (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

