	WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND HOME AND COMMUNITY
	BASED SERVICES
	2014 GENERAL SESSION
	STATE OF UTAH
	Chief Sponsor: Rebecca P. Edwards
	Senate Sponsor: Todd Weiler
LONG	TITLE
Genera	l Description:
	This bill modifies the Workers' Compensation Act to address home and community
based s	ervices.
Highlig	phted Provisions:
	This bill:
	 modifies the definition of employer for purposes of home and community based
services	\$;
	 removes the exemption of certain workers from the definition of employee; and
	 makes technical changes.
Money	Appropriated in this Bill:
	None
Other S	Special Clauses:
	Ĥ→ [None] <u>This bill takes effect on July 1, 2015.</u> ←Ĥ
Utah C	ode Sections Affected:
AMEN	DS:
	34A-2-103 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapter 346
	34A-2-104 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 58

28	Section 1. Section 34A-2-103 is amended to read:
29	34A-2-103. Employers enumerated and defined Regularly employed
30	Statutory employers.
31	(1) (a) The state, and each county, city, town, and school district in the state are
32	considered employers under this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act.
33	(b) For the purposes of the exclusive remedy in this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah
34	Occupational Disease Act prescribed in Sections 34A-2-105 and 34A-3-102, the state is
35	considered to be a single employer and includes any office, department, agency, authority,
36	commission, board, institution, hospital, college, university, or other instrumentality of the
37	state.
38	(2) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (4), each person, including each public utility
39	and each independent contractor, who regularly employs one or more workers or operatives in
40	the same business, or in or about the same establishment, under any contract of hire, express or
41	implied, oral or written, is considered an employer under this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah
42	Occupational Disease Act.
43	(b) As used in this Subsection (2):
44	(i) "Independent contractor" means any person engaged in the performance of any work
45	for another who, while so engaged, is:
46	(A) independent of the employer in all that pertains to the execution of the work;
47	(B) not subject to the routine rule or control of the employer;
48	(C) engaged only in the performance of a definite job or piece of work; and
49	(D) subordinate to the employer only in effecting a result in accordance with the
50	employer's design.
51	(ii) "Regularly" includes all employments in the usual course of the trade, business,
52	profession, or occupation of the employer, whether continuous throughout the year or for only a
53	portion of the year.
54	(3) (a) The client under a professional employer organization agreement regulated
55	under Title 31A, Chapter 40, Professional Employer Organization Licensing Act:
56	(i) is considered the employer of a covered employee; and
57	(ii) subject to Section 31A-40-209, shall secure workers' compensation benefits for a
58	covered employee by complying with Subsection 34A-2-201(1) or (2) and commission rules.

59	(b) The division shall promptly inform the Insurance Department if the division has
60	reason to believe that a professional employer organization is not in compliance with
61	Subsection 34A-2-201(1) or (2) and commission rules.
62	(4) A domestic employer who does not employ one employee or more than one
63	employee at least 40 hours per week is not considered an employer under this chapter and
64	Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act.
65	(5) (a) As used in this Subsection (5):
66	(i) (A) "agricultural employer" means a person who employs agricultural labor as
67	defined in Subsections 35A-4-206(1) and (2) and does not include employment as provided in
68	Subsection 35A-4-206(3); and
69	(B) notwithstanding Subsection (5)(a)(i)(A), only for purposes of determining who is a
70	member of the employer's immediate family under Subsection (5)(a)(ii), if the agricultural
71	employer is a corporation, partnership, or other business entity, "agricultural employer" means
72	an officer, director, or partner of the business entity;
73	(ii) "employer's immediate family" means:
74	(A) an agricultural employer's:
75	(I) spouse;
76	(II) grandparent;
77	(III) parent;
78	(IV) sibling;
79	(V) child;
80	(VI) grandchild;
81	(VII) nephew; or
82	(VIII) niece;
83	(B) a spouse of any person provided in [Subsection] Subsections (5)(a)(ii)(A)(II)
84	through (VIII); or
85	(C) an individual who is similar to those listed in Subsection (5)(a)(ii)(A) or (B) as
86	defined by rules of the commission; and
87	(iii) "nonimmediate family" means a person who is not a member of the employer's
88	immediate family.
89	(b) For purposes of this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, an

90	agricultural employer is not considered an employer of a member of the employer's immediate
91	family.
92	(c) For purposes of this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, an
93	agricultural employer is not considered an employer of a nonimmediate family employee if:
94	(i) for the previous calendar year the agricultural employer's total annual payroll for all
95	nonimmediate family employees was less than \$8,000; or
96	(ii) (A) for the previous calendar year the agricultural employer's total annual payroll
97	for all nonimmediate family employees was equal to or greater than \$8,000 but less than
98	\$50,000; and
99	(B) the agricultural employer maintains insurance that covers job-related injuries of the
100	employer's nonimmediate family employees in at least the following amounts:
101	(I) \$300,000 liability insurance, as defined in Section 31A-1-301; and
102	(II) \$5,000 for health care benefits similar to benefits under health care insurance as
103	defined in Section 31A-1-301.
104	(d) For purposes of this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, an
105	agricultural employer is considered an employer of a nonimmediate family employee if:
106	(i) for the previous calendar year the agricultural employer's total annual payroll for all
107	nonimmediate family employees is equal to or greater than \$50,000; or
108	(ii) (A) for the previous year the agricultural employer's total payroll for nonimmediate
109	family employees was equal to or exceeds \$8,000 but is less than \$50,000; and
110	(B) the agricultural employer fails to maintain the insurance required under Subsection
111	(5)(c)(ii)(B).
112	(6) An employer of agricultural laborers or domestic servants who is not considered an
113	employer under this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, may come under
114	this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, by complying with:
115	(a) this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act; and
116	(b) the rules of the commission.
117	(7) (a) (i) As used in this Subsection (7)(a), "employer" includes any of the following
118	persons that procures work to be done by a contractor notwithstanding whether or not the
119	person directly employs a person:
120	(A) a sole proprietorship;

	01-51-14 10:11 AM 11.D. 74
121	(B) a corporation;
122	(C) a partnership;
123	(D) a limited liability company; or
124	(E) a person similar to one described in Subsections (7)(a)(i)(A) through (D).
125	(ii) If an employer procures any work to be done wholly or in part for the employer by
126	a contractor over whose work the employer retains supervision or control, and this work is a
127	part or process in the trade or business of the employer, the contractor, all persons employed by
128	the contractor, all subcontractors under the contractor, and all persons employed by any of
129	these subcontractors, are considered employees of the original employer for the purposes of
130	this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act.
131	(b) Any person who is engaged in constructing, improving, repairing, or remodeling a
132	residence that the person owns or is in the process of acquiring as the person's personal
133	residence may not be considered an employee or employer solely by operation of Subsection
134	(7)(a).
135	(c) A partner in a partnership or an owner of a sole proprietorship is not considered an
136	employee under Subsection (7)(a) if the employer who procures work to be done by the
137	partnership or sole proprietorship obtains and relies on either:
138	(i) a valid certification of the partnership's or sole proprietorship's compliance with
139	Section 34A-2-201 indicating that the partnership or sole proprietorship secured the payment of
140	workers' compensation benefits pursuant to Section 34A-2-201; or
141	(ii) if a partnership or sole proprietorship with no employees other than a partner of the
142	partnership or owner of the sole proprietorship, a workers' compensation coverage waiver
143	issued pursuant to Part 10, Workers' Compensation Coverage Waivers Act, stating that:
144	(A) the partnership or sole proprietorship is customarily engaged in an independently
145	established trade, occupation, profession, or business; and
146	(B) the partner or owner personally waives the partner's or owner's entitlement to the
147	benefits of this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, in the operation of the
148	partnership or sole proprietorship.
149	(d) A director or officer of a corporation is not considered an employee under
150	Subsection (7)(a) if the director or officer is excluded from coverage under Subsection
151	34A-2-104(4).

H.B. 94

152 (e) A contractor or subcontractor is not an employee of the employer under Subsection 153 (7)(a), if the employer who procures work to be done by the contractor or subcontractor obtains 154 and relies on either: 155 (i) a valid certification of the contractor's or subcontractor's compliance with Section 156 34A-2-201; or 157 (ii) if a partnership, corporation, or sole proprietorship with no employees other than a 158 partner of the partnership, officer of the corporation, or owner of the sole proprietorship, a 159 workers' compensation coverage waiver issued pursuant to Part 10, Workers' Compensation 160 Coverage Waivers Act, stating that: (A) the partnership, corporation, or sole proprietorship is customarily engaged in an 161 162 independently established trade, occupation, profession, or business; and 163 (B) the partner, corporate officer, or owner personally waives the partner's, corporate 164 officer's, or owner's entitlement to the benefits of this chapter and Chapter 3. Utah Occupational Disease Act, in the operation of the partnership's, corporation's, or sole 165 166 proprietorship's enterprise under a contract of hire for services. 167 (f) (i) For purposes of this Subsection (7)(f), "eligible employer" means a person who: 168 (A) is an employer; and 169 (B) procures work to be done wholly or in part for the employer by a contractor, 170 including: (I) all persons employed by the contractor; 171 172 (II) all subcontractors under the contractor; and 173 (III) all persons employed by any of these subcontractors. 174 (ii) Notwithstanding the other provisions in this Subsection (7), if the conditions of 175 Subsection (7)(f)(iii) are met, an eligible employer is considered an employer for purposes of 176 Section 34A-2-105 of the contractor, subcontractor, and all persons employed by the contractor 177 or subcontractor described in Subsection (7)(f)(i)(B). 178 (iii) Subsection (7)(f)(ii) applies if the eligible employer: 179 (A) under Subsection (7)(a) is liable for and pays workers' compensation benefits as an 180 original employer under Subsection (7)(a) because the contractor or subcontractor fails to 181 comply with Section 34A-2-201; 182 (B) (I) secures the payment of workers' compensation benefits for the contractor or

183	subcontractor pursuant to Section 34A-2-201;
184	(II) procures work to be done that is part or process of the trade or business of the
185	eligible employer; and
186	(III) does the following with regard to a written workplace accident and injury
187	reduction program that meets the requirements of Subsection 34A-2-111(3)(d):
188	(Aa) adopts the workplace accident and injury reduction program;
189	(Bb) posts the workplace accident and injury reduction program at the work site at
190	which the eligible employer procures work; and
191	(Cc) enforces the workplace accident and injury reduction program according to the
192	terms of the workplace accident and injury reduction program; or
193	(C) (I) obtains and relies on:
194	(Aa) a valid certification described in Subsection (7)(c)(i) or (7)(e)(i);
195	(Bb) a workers' compensation coverage waiver described in Subsection (7)(c)(ii) or
196	(7)(e)(ii); or
197	(Cc) proof that a director or officer is excluded from coverage under Subsection
198	34A-2-104(4);
199	(II) is liable under Subsection (7)(a) for the payment of workers' compensation benefits
200	if the contractor or subcontractor fails to comply with Section 34A-2-201;
201	(III) procures work to be done that is part or process in the trade or business of the
202	eligible employer; and
203	(IV) does the following with regard to a written workplace accident and injury
204	reduction program that meets the requirements of Subsection 34A-2-111(3)(d):
205	(Aa) adopts the workplace accident and injury reduction program;
206	(Bb) posts the workplace accident and injury reduction program at the work site at
207	which the eligible employer procures work; and
208	(Cc) enforces the workplace accident and injury reduction program according to the
209	terms of the workplace accident and injury reduction program.
210	(8) (a) For purposes of this Subsection (8), "unincorporated entity" means an entity
211	organized or doing business in the state that is not:
212	(i) an individual;
213	(ii) a corporation; or

214	(iii) publicly traded.
215	(b) For purposes of this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, an
216	unincorporated entity that is required to be licensed under Title 58, Chapter 55, Utah
217	Construction Trades Licensing Act, is presumed to be the employer of each individual who
218	holds, directly or indirectly, an ownership interest in the unincorporated entity.
219	Notwithstanding Subsection (7)(c) and Subsection 34A-2-104(3), the unincorporated entity
220	shall provide the individual who holds the ownership interest workers' compensation coverage
221	under this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, unless the presumption is
222	rebutted under Subsection (8)(c).
223	(c) Pursuant to rules made by the commission in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3,
224	Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, an unincorporated entity may rebut the presumption
225	under Subsection (8)(b) for an individual by establishing by clear and convincing evidence that
226	the individual:
227	(i) is an active manager of the unincorporated entity;
228	(ii) directly or indirectly holds at least an 8% ownership interest in the unincorporated
229	entity; or
230	(iii) is not subject to supervision or control in the performance of work by:
231	(A) the unincorporated entity; or
232	(B) a person with whom the unincorporated entity contracts.
233	(d) As part of the rules made under Subsection (8)(c), the commission may define:
234	(i) "active manager";
235	(ii) "directly or indirectly holds at least an 8% ownership interest"; and
236	(iii) "subject to supervision or control in the performance of work."
237	(9) (a) As used in this Subsection (9), "home and community based services" means
238	one or more of the following services provided to an individual with a disability or to the
239	individual's family that helps prevent the individual with a disability from being placed in a
240	more restrictive setting:
241	(i) respite care;
242	(ii) skilled nursing;
243	(iii) nursing assistant services;
244	(iv) home health aide services;

245	(v) personal care and attendant services;
246	(vi) other in-home care, such as support for the daily activities of the individual with a
247	disability;
248	(vii) specialized in-home training for the individual with a disability or a family
249	member of the individual with a disability;
250	(viii) specialized in-home support, coordination, and other supported living services;
251	and
252	(ix) other home and community based services unique to the individual with a
253	disability or the family of the individual with a disability that help prevent the individual with a
254	disability from being placed in a more restrictive setting.
255	(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (4) $\hat{H} \rightarrow and subject to Subsection (9)(c) \leftarrow \hat{H}$, an
255a	individual with a disability or designated
256	representative of the individual with a disability is considered an employer under this chapter
257	and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, of an individual who provides home and
258	community based services if the individual with a disability or designated representative of the
259	individual with a disability:
260	(i) employs the individual to provide home and community based services for
260a	Ĥ→ [<u>five</u>] <u>seven</u> ←Ĥ
261	hours per week or more; and
262	(ii) pays the individual providing the home and community based services from state or
263	federal money received by the $\hat{H} \rightarrow [person]$ the individual with a disability or designated
263a	representative of the individual with a disability $\leftarrow \hat{H}$ to fund home and community based
263b	services, including
264	through a person designated by the Secretary of the Treasury in accordance with Section 3504,
265	Internal Revenue Code, as a fiduciary, agent, or other person who has the control, receipt,
266	custody, or disposal of, or pays the wages of, the individual providing the home and
267	community based services.
267a	$\hat{H} \rightarrow (\underline{c})$ The state and federal money received by an individual with a disability or
267b	designated representative of an individual with a disability shall include the cost of the
267c	workers' compensation coverage required by this Subsection (9) in addition to the money
267d	necessary to fund the home and community based services that the individual with a disability
267e	or family of the individual with a disability is eligible to receive so that the home and
267f	community based services are not reduced in order to pay for the workers' compensation
267g	<u>coverage required by this Subsection (9).</u> ←Ĥ

- 9 -

268	Section 2. Section 34A-2-104 is amended to read:
269	34A-2-104. "Employee," "worker," and "operative" defined Specific
270	circumstances Exemptions.
271	(1) As used in this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, "employee,"
272	"worker," and "operative" mean:
273	(a) (i) an elective or appointive officer and any other person:
274	(A) in the service of:
275	(I) the state;

276	(II) a county, city, or town within the state; or
277	(III) a school district within the state;
278	(B) serving the state, or any county, city, town, or school district under:
279	(I) an election;
280	(II) appointment; or
281	(III) any contract of hire, express or implied, written or oral; and
282	(ii) including:
283	(A) an officer or employee of the state institutions of learning; and
284	(B) a member of the National Guard while on state active duty; and
285	(b) a person in the service of any employer, as defined in Section 34A-2-103, who
286	employs one or more workers or operatives regularly in the same business, or in or about the
287	same establishment:
288	(i) under any contract of hire:
289	(A) express or implied; and
290	(B) oral or written;
291	(ii) including aliens and minors, whether legally or illegally working for hire; and
292	(iii) not including any person whose employment:
293	(A) is casual; and
294	(B) not in the usual course of the trade, business, or occupation of the employee's
295	employer.
296	(2) (a) Unless a lessee provides coverage as an employer under this chapter and
297	Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, any lessee in mines or of mining property and each
298	employee and sublessee of the lessee shall be:
299	(i) covered for compensation by the lessor under this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah
300	Occupational Disease Act;
301	(ii) subject to this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act; and
302	(iii) entitled to the benefits of this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease
303	Act, to the same extent as if the lessee, employee, or sublessee were employees of the lessor
304	drawing the wages paid employees for substantially similar work.
305	(b) The lessor may deduct from the proceeds of ores mined by the lessees an amount
306	equal to the insurance premium for that type of work.

307	(3) (a) A partnership or sole proprietorship may elect to include any partner of the
308	partnership or owner of the sole proprietorship as an employee of the partnership or sole
309	proprietorship under this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act.
310	(b) If a partnership or sole proprietorship makes an election under Subsection (3)(a),
311	the partnership or sole proprietorship shall serve written notice upon its insurance carrier
312	naming the persons to be covered.
313	(c) A partner of a partnership or owner of a sole proprietorship may not be considered
314	an employee of the partner's partnership or the owner's sole proprietorship under this chapter or
315	Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, until the notice described in Subsection (3)(b) is
316	given.
317	(d) For premium rate making, the insurance carrier shall assume the salary or wage of
318	the partner or sole proprietor electing coverage under Subsection (3)(a) to be 100% of the
319	state's average weekly wage.
320	(4) (a) A corporation may elect not to include any director or officer of the corporation
321	as an employee under this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act.
322	(b) If a corporation makes an election under Subsection (4)(a), the corporation shall
323	serve written notice naming the individuals who are directors or officers to be excluded from
324	coverage:
325	(i) upon its insurance carrier, if any; or
326	(ii) upon the commission if the corporation is self-insured or has no employee other
327	than the one or more directors or officers being excluded.
328	(c) A corporation may exclude no more than five individuals who are directors or
329	officers under Subsection (4)(b)(ii).
330	(d) An exclusion under this Subsection (4) is subject to Subsection $34A-2-103(7)(d)$.
331	(e) A director or officer of a corporation is considered an employee under this chapter
332	and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, until the notice described in Subsection (4)(b)
333	is given.
334	(f) The commission may make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
335	Administrative Rulemaking Act, regarding the form of the notice described in Subsection
336	(4)(b)(ii), including a requirement to provide documentation, if any.
337	(5) As used in this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, "employee,"

338	"worker," and "operative" do not include:
339	(a) a sales agent or associate broker, as defined in Section 61-2f-102, who performs
340	services in that capacity for a principal broker if:
341	(i) substantially all of the sales agent's or associate broker's income for services is from
342	real estate commissions; and
343	(ii) the sales agent's or associate broker's services are performed under a written
344	contract that provides that:
345	(A) the real estate agent is an independent contractor; and
346	(B) the sales agent or associate broker is not to be treated as an employee for federal
347	income tax purposes;
348	(b) an offender performing labor under Section 64-13-16 or 64-13-19, except as
349	required by federal statute or regulation;
350	(c) an individual who for an insurance producer, as defined in Section 31A-1-301,
351	solicits, negotiates, places, or procures insurance if:
352	(i) substantially all of the individual's income from those services is from insurance
353	commissions; and
354	(ii) the services of the individual are performed under a written contract that states that
355	the individual:
356	(A) is an independent contractor;
357	(B) is not to be treated as an employee for federal income tax purposes; and
358	(C) can derive income from more than one insurance company; or
359	[(d) notwithstanding Subsection 34A-2-103(4), an individual who provides domestic
360	work for a person if:]
361	[(i) the person for whom the domestic work is being provided receives or is eligible to
362	receive the domestic work under a state or federal program designed to pay the costs of
363	domestic work to prevent the person from being placed in:]
364	[(A) an institution; or]
365	[(B) a more restrictive placement than where that person resides at the time the person
366	receives the domestic work;]
367	[(ii) the individual is paid by a person designated by the Secretary of the Treasury in
368	accordance with Section 3504, Internal Revenue Code, as a fiduciary, agent, or other person

H.B. 94 01-31-14 10:11 AM 369 that has the control, receipt, custody, or disposal of, or pays the wages of the individual; and] 370 (iii) the domestic work is performed under a written contract that notifies the 371 individual that the individual is not an employee under this chapter or Chapter 3, Utah 372 Occupational Disease Act; or] 373 [(e)] (d) subject to Subsections (6), (7), and (8), an individual who: 374 (i) (A) owns a motor vehicle; or 375 (B) leases a motor vehicle to a motor carrier; 376 (ii) personally operates the motor vehicle described in Subsection $(5)[\frac{1}{(c)}](d)(i)$; 377 (iii) operates the motor vehicle described in Subsection (5)[(e)](d)(i) under a written 378 agreement with the motor carrier that states that the individual operates the motor vehicle as an 379 independent contractor; and 380 (iv) (A) provides to the motor carrier at the time the written agreement described in 381 Subsection (5)[(e)](d)(iii) is executed or as soon after the execution as provided by the 382 commission, a copy of a workers' compensation coverage waiver issued pursuant to Part 10, 383 Workers' Compensation Coverage Waivers Act, to the individual; and 384 (B) provides to the motor carrier at the time the written agreement described in 385 Subsection (5)[(e)](d)(iii) is executed or as soon after the execution as provided by an insurer, 386 proof that the individual is covered by occupational accident related insurance with the 387 coverage and benefit limits listed in Subsection (7)(c). 388 (6) An individual described in Subsection (5)(d) [or (e)] may become an employee 389 under this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act, if the employer of the 390 individual complies with: 391 (a) this chapter and Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act; and 392 (b) commission rules. 393 (7) For purposes of Subsection (5)[(e)](d): 394 (a) "Motor carrier" means a person engaged in the business of transporting freight, 395 merchandise, or other property by a commercial vehicle on a highway within this state. 396 (b) "Motor vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle intended primarily for use and 397 operation on the highways, including a trailer or semitrailer designed for use with another 398 motorized vehicle. (c) "Occupational accident related insurance" means insurance that provides the 399

- 400 following coverage at a minimum aggregate policy limit of \$1,000,000 for all benefits paid,
- 401 including medical expense benefits, for an injury sustained in the course of working under a
- 402 written agreement described in Subsection (5)[(e)](d)(iii):
- 403 (i) disability benefits;
- 404 (ii) death benefits; and
- 405 (iii) medical expense benefits, which include:
- 406 (A) hospital coverage;
- 407 (B) surgical coverage;
- 408 (C) prescription drug coverage; and
- 409 (D) dental coverage.
- 410 (8) For an individual described in Subsection (5)[(e)](d), the commission shall verify
- 411 the existence of occupational accident insurance coverage with the coverage and benefit limits
- 412 listed in Subsection (7)(c) before the commission may issue a workers' compensation coverage
- 413 waiver to the individual pursuant to Part 10, Workers' Compensation Coverage Waivers Act.
- 413a $\hat{H} \rightarrow \underline{Section 3. Effective date.}$
- 413b **This bill takes effect on July 1, 2015.** ←Ĥ

Legislative Review Note as of 1-30-14 5:22 PM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel