

Ronald M. Winterton proposes the following substitute bill:

**Natural Resources Operations**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Ronald M. Winterton**

House Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill addresses the operations of the Department of Natural Resources.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- removes a requirement for the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO) to prepare and submit a constitutional defense plan;
- renames the executive director of PLPCO as the senior advisor on public lands;
- clarifies that the senior advisor of PLPCO and director of the Office of Energy Development:
  - are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate; and
  - report to the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources, upon the executive director's request;
- repeals a committee required to inventory and map R.S. 2477 rights-of-way; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill provides a coordination clause.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

- 63C-4a-403**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 81
- 63L-7-104**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 68
- 63L-7-105**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 323
- 63L-7-109**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 323
- 63L-11-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 16

29 **63L-11-201**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 345 and renumbered and  
30 amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 382

31 **63L-11-202**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 36

32 **63L-11-305**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 313

33 **63L-11-402**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 160

34 **63L-11-403**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 382

35 **67-22-2**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 522

36 **79-1-103**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 280

37 **79-2-204**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 80

38 **79-6-401**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 4

39 **79-6-407**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 4

40 REPEALS:

41 **63A-16-507**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapters 162, 382 and renumbered  
42 and amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 344



44 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

45 Section 1. Section **63C-4a-403** is amended to read:

46 **63C-4a-403 . Due process and adjudication for closure of a road -- Plans for R.S.**  
47 **2477 rights.**

48 (1)(a) Any road on or across federally managed property and that is found on a county's  
49 class B and class D road map or a county travel plan is presumed to be a public road  
50 open for public use unless the road has been closed through an appropriate action of  
51 the state or federal government properly adjudicated and with due process.

52 (b) If the federal government attempts to close a road on a county's class B and class D  
53 road map or county travel plan without proper adjudication and due process:

- 54 (i) the closure is invalid and has no effect; and
- 55 (ii) the state and county may disregard the alleged closure.

56 (c) In an adjudication to determine ownership of a disputed road that is included in a  
57 county travel plan, including an R.S. 2477 claim, the federal government has the  
58 burden of proof to show that the disputed road is not a public road and warrants  
59 closure.

60 (2) The council may approve an R.S. 2477 plan if the R.S. 2477 plan:

- 61 (a) provides for a good faith, cooperative effort between the state and each participating  
62 county;

- 63 (b) allows a county to formally agree to participate in the R.S. 2477 plan by adopting a  
64 resolution;
- 65 (c) provides that the state and a participating county are equal partners in determining  
66 litigation strategy and the expenditure of resources with respect to that county's rights  
67 under R.S. 2477; and
- 68 (d) provides a process for resolving any disagreement between the state and a  
69 participating county about litigation strategy or resource expenditure that includes the  
70 following requirements:
- 71 (i) the governor or the governor's designee and a representative of the Utah  
72 Association of Counties shall first attempt to resolve the disagreement;
- 73 (ii) if the county and the state continue to disagree, the county, the governor, and the  
74 Utah Association of Counties shall present their recommendations to the council  
75 for a final decision about the strategy or expenditure in question; and
- 76 (iii) the county may pursue a strategy or make an expenditure contrary to the final  
77 decision of the council only if the county does not claim resources provided to  
78 fund the R.S. 2477 plan.
- 79 (3) The council shall ensure that the R.S. 2477 plan contains:
- 80 (a) provisions identifying which expenditure types require approval of the R.S. 2477  
81 plan committee and which expenditure types may be made without the R.S. 2477  
82 plan committee approval;
- 83 (b) provisions requiring that financial statements be provided to members of the R.S.  
84 2477 plan committee and members of the council, and the frequency with which  
85 those financial statements must be provided;
- 86 (c) provisions identifying those decisions or types of decisions that may be made by the  
87 R.S. 2477 plan committee and those decisions or types of decisions that must be  
88 referred to the council for decision; and
- 89 (d) procedures to assert claims and respond to attempted closures as described in  
90 Subsection (1).
- 91 ~~[(4)(a) The Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, in consultation with the~~  
92 ~~committee, the Office of the Attorney General and the School and Institutional Trust~~  
93 ~~Lands, shall prepare and submit a constitutional defense plan to the council for the~~  
94 ~~council's approval.]~~
- 95 ~~[(b) The constitutional defense plan shall contain proposed action and expenditure for:]~~  
96 ~~[(i) the council's or the commission's duties; or]~~

97           ~~[(ii) an action filed in accordance with Section 67-5-29.]~~

98   ~~[(5)]~~ (4) The council shall:

99       (a) review expenditures, at least ~~[quarterly]~~ annually, made to further a plan approved  
100       under this section;

101       (b) approve an update to a plan under this section at least annually, or more often, if  
102       necessary; and

103       (c) ~~[jointly, with]~~ ensure that the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office~~[],~~ :

104        (i) presents a R.S. 2477 plan approved under this section, with any updates, to~~[:]~~

105           ~~[(i) the Legislature's]~~ the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim

106           Committee ~~[by]~~ on or before July 1 of each calendar year~~[-, after providing the R.S.~~

107           ~~2477 plan to the committee at least seven days before the presentation]; and~~

108        (ii) provides a hard copy or electronic copy of the R.S. 2477 plan approved under this  
109        section, with any updates to the plan, to:

110           (A) the commission~~[-, which may be by mail];~~ and

111           ~~[(iii)]~~ (B) the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of

112           Representatives~~[-, which may be by mail].~~

113       Section 2. Section **63L-7-104** is amended to read:

114       **63L-7-104 . Identification of a potential wilderness area.**

115       (1)(a) Subject to Subsection (1)(b), the ~~[director]~~ senior advisor of PLPCO, within one  
116       year of the acquisition date, shall identify within a parcel of acquired land any  
117       conservation areas.

118       (b) Before identifying a parcel of land as a conservation area, the ~~[director]~~ senior advisor  
119       of PLPCO shall:

120        (i) inform the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration that a parcel is  
121        being considered for designation as a conservation area; and

122        (ii) provide the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration with the  
123        opportunity to trade out land owned by the School and Institutional Trust Lands  
124        Administration for the parcel in question subject to reaching an exchange  
125        agreement with the agency that manages the parcel.

126       (2) The ~~[director]~~ senior advisor of PLPCO shall:

127        (a) file a map and legal description of each identified conservation area with the  
128        governor, the Senate, and the House of Representatives;

129        (b) maintain, and make available to the public, records pertaining to identified  
130        conservation areas, including:

- 131 (i) maps;
- 132 (ii) legal descriptions;
- 133 (iii) copies of proposed regulations governing the conservation area; and
- 134 (iv) copies of public notices of, and reports submitted to the Legislature, regarding
- 135 pending additions, eliminations, or modifications to a conservation area; and
- 136 (c) within five years of the date of acquisition:
- 137 (i) review each identified conservation area for its suitability to be classified as a
- 138 protected wilderness area; and
- 139 (ii) report the findings under Subsection (2)(c)(i) to the governor.
- 140 (3) The records described in Subsection (2)(b) shall be available for inspection at:
- 141 (a) the PLPCO office;
- 142 (b) the main office of DNR;
- 143 (c) a regional office of the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands for any record that
- 144 deals with an identified conservation area in that region; and
- 145 (d) the Division of State Parks or the Division of Outdoor Recreation.
- 146 (4) A conservation area may be designated as a protected wilderness area as described in
- 147 Section 63L-7-105.
- 148 (5) A conservation area identified under Subsection (1) shall be managed by DNR, in
- 149 coordination with the county government having jurisdiction over the area, without the
- 150 conservation area being designated as a protected wilderness area unless otherwise
- 151 provided by the Legislature.
- 152 Section 3. Section **63L-7-105** is amended to read:
- 153 **63L-7-105 . Report to the governor -- Governor's report to the Legislature --**
- 154 **Designation of a protected wilderness area -- Modification of a protected wilderness area**
- 155 **-- Rulemaking authority.**
- 156 (1) Within five years of the acquisition date of a parcel of land, the [~~director~~] senior advisor
- 157 of PLPCO shall:
- 158 (a) review all areas identified as conservation areas under Section 63L-7-104; and
- 159 (b) subject to Subsection (3), submit a report and recommendation to the governor on
- 160 the suitability of a conservation area for designation as a protected wilderness area.
- 161 (2) Before making a recommendation, the [~~director~~] senior advisor of PLPCO shall:
- 162 (a) give notice of the proposed recommendation in a newspaper having general
- 163 circulation in the vicinity of the affected land;
- 164 (b) hold a public hearing at a location convenient to citizens who live in the affected

- 165 area; and
- 166 (c) at least 30 days before the date of the hearing described in Subsection (2)(b), invite
- 167 local authorities to submit their opinions on the proposed action:
- 168 (i) at the hearing; or
- 169 (ii) to the [~~director~~] senior advisor of PLPCO, in writing, no later than 30 days after
- 170 the day on which the hearing is held.
- 171 (3) Any opinions submitted to the [~~director~~] senior advisor of PLPCO shall be included with
- 172 any recommendations to the governor under Subsection (2) and the Legislature under
- 173 Subsection (5).
- 174 (4) The governor shall, after receiving the reports described in Subsection (1)(b):
- 175 (a) formulate a recommendation on which conservation areas to designate as protected
- 176 wilderness areas; and
- 177 (b) advise the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate of
- 178 the governor's recommendation.
- 179 (5) An area shall be designated as a protected wilderness area upon a concurrent resolution
- 180 of the Legislature, the governor concurring therein, including:
- 181 (a) the legal description of the proposed protected wilderness area; and
- 182 (b) any special conditions that shall be placed upon the protected wilderness area.
- 183 (6) Any modification or adjustment to the boundaries of a protected wilderness area shall
- 184 be:
- 185 (a) recommended by the [~~director~~] senior advisor of PLPCO after public notice of, and
- 186 hearing on, the proposal, as described in Subsections (1) and (2); and
- 187 (b) made official as described in Subsections (4) and (5).
- 188 (7) DNR shall make rules governing the protection of a protected wilderness area.
- 189 Section 4. Section **63L-7-109** is amended to read:
- 190 **63L-7-109 . Annual reports.**
- 191 (1) The [~~director~~] senior advisor of PLPCO shall report to the governor, for transmission to
- 192 the Legislature, on:
- 193 (a) the status of the Utah wilderness preservation system;
- 194 (b) regulations in effect; and
- 195 (c) other pertinent information.
- 196 (2) The [~~director~~] senior advisor of PLPCO shall report any recommendations for future
- 197 action to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee by
- 198 November 30 of each year.

199 Section 5. Section **63L-11-102** is amended to read:

200 **63L-11-102 . Definitions.**

201 As used in this chapter:

202 (1) "Coordinating committee" means the committee created in Section 63L-11-401.

203 (2) "Executive director" means the ~~[public lands policy]~~executive director of the  
204 Department of Natural Resources appointed under Section ~~[63L-11-201]~~ 79-2-202.

205 (3) "Office" means the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office created in Section  
206 63L-11-201.

207 (4) "Political subdivision" means:

208 (a) a county, municipality, special district, special service district, school district, or  
209 interlocal entity, as defined in Section 11-13-103; or

210 (b) an administrative subunit of an entity listed in Subsection (4)(a).

211 (5) "Senior advisor" means the senior advisor of the office appointed under Section  
212 63L-11-201.

213 Section 6. Section **63L-11-201** is amended to read:

214 **63L-11-201 . Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office -- Senior advisor --**

215 **Appointment -- Qualifications -- Compensation.**

216 (1)(a) There is created the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office within the  
217 Department of Natural Resources~~[the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office to be~~  
218 ~~administered by an executive director]~~.

219 (b) The senior advisor on public lands is the executive and administrative head of the  
220 Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office.

221 (2)(a) The ~~[executive director shall be appointed by the governor]~~ governor shall appoint  
222 the senior advisor with the advice and consent of the Senate~~[and shall serve at the~~  
223 ~~pleasure of the governor]~~.

224 (b) The senior advisor shall:

225 (i) serve at the pleasure of the governor; and

226 (ii) report to the executive director on matters concerning the office as the executive  
227 director may require.

228 (3) The ~~[executive director]~~ senior advisor shall have demonstrated the necessary  
229 administrative and professional ability through education and experience to efficiently  
230 and effectively manage the office's affairs.

231 (4)(a) The ~~[executive director]~~ senior advisor and employees of the office shall receive  
232 compensation as provided in Title 63A, Chapter 17, Utah State Personnel

233 Management Act.

234 (b) The office space for the ~~[executive director]~~ senior advisor and employees of the  
235 office shall be in a building where the Department of Natural Resources is located.

236 Section 7. Section **63L-11-202** is amended to read:

237 **63L-11-202 . Powers and duties of the office and senior advisor.**

238 (1) The office shall:

239 (a) make a report to the Constitutional Defense Council created under Section  
240 63C-4a-202 concerning R.S. 2477 rights and other public lands issues under Title  
241 63C, Chapter 4a, Constitutional and Federalism Defense Act;

242 (b) provide staff assistance to the Constitutional Defense Council created under Section  
243 63C-4a-202 for meetings of the council;

244 ~~[(e)(i) prepare and submit a constitutional defense plan under Section 63C-4a-403;~~  
245 ~~and]~~

246 ~~[(ii) execute any action assigned in a constitutional defense plan;]~~

247 (c) for a R.S. 2477 plan approved under Section 63C-4a-403:

248 (i) present the plan, with any updates to the plan, to the Natural Resources,  
249 Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee on or before July 1 of each  
250 calendar year; and

251 (ii) provide a hard copy or electronic copy of the plan, with any updates to the plan,  
252 to:

253 (A) the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee no  
254 later than seven days before the day of the presentation described in Subsection  
255 (1)(c)(i);

256 (B) the Federalism Commission created in Section 63C-4a-302; and

257 (C) the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives;

258 (d) develop public lands policies by:

259 (i) developing cooperative contracts and agreements between the state, political  
260 subdivisions, and agencies of the federal government for involvement in the  
261 development of public lands policies;

262 (ii) producing research, documents, maps, studies, analysis, or other information that  
263 supports the state's participation in the development of public lands policy;

264 (iii) preparing comments to ensure that the positions of the state and political  
265 subdivisions are considered in the development of public lands policy; and

266 (iv) partnering with state agencies and political subdivisions in an effort to:



- 267 (A) prepare coordinated public lands policies;
- 268 (B) develop consistency reviews and responses to public lands policies;
- 269 (C) develop management plans that relate to public lands policies; and
- 270 (D) develop and maintain a statewide land use plan that is based on cooperation
- 271 and in conjunction with political subdivisions;
- 272 (e) facilitate and coordinate the exchange of information, comments, and
- 273 recommendations on public lands policies between and among:
- 274 (i) state agencies;
- 275 (ii) political subdivisions;
- 276 (iii) the Office of Rural Development created under Section 63N-4-102;
- 277 (iv) the coordinating committee;
- 278 (v) School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration created under Section
- 279 53C-1-201; and
- 280 [~~(vi) the committee created under Section 63A-16-507 to award grants to counties to~~
- 281 ~~inventory and map R.S. 2477 rights-of-way, associated structures, and other~~
- 282 ~~features; and]~~
- 283 [(vii)] (vi) the Constitutional Defense Council created under Section 63C-4a-202;
- 284 (f) perform the duties established in Title 9, Chapter 8a, Part 3, Antiquities, and Title 9,
- 285 Chapter 8a, Part 4, Historic Sites;
- 286 (g) consistent with other statutory duties, encourage agencies to responsibly preserve
- 287 archaeological resources;
- 288 (h) maintain information concerning grants made under Subsection (1)(j), if available;
- 289 (i) report annually, or more often if necessary or requested, concerning the office's
- 290 activities and expenditures to:
- 291 (i) the Constitutional Defense Council created under Section 63C-4a-202; and
- 292 (ii) the Legislature's Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim
- 293 Committee jointly with the Constitutional Defense Council;
- 294 (j) make grants of up to 16% of the office's total annual appropriations from the
- 295 Constitutional Defense Restricted Account to a county or statewide association of
- 296 counties to be used by the county or association of counties for public lands matters if
- 297 the executive director, with the advice of the Constitutional Defense Council,
- 298 determines that the action provides a state benefit;
- 299 (k) conduct the public lands transfer study and economic analysis required by Section
- 300 63L-11-304; and

- 301 (l) fulfill the duties described in Section 63L-10-103.
- 302 (2) The ~~[executive director]~~ senior advisor shall comply with Subsection 63C-4a-203(8)
- 303 before submitting a comment to a federal agency, if the governor would be subject to
- 304 Subsection 63C-4a-203(8) in submitting the comment.
- 305 (3) The office may enter into an agreement with another state agency to provide
- 306 information and services related to:
- 307 (a) the duties authorized by Title 72, Chapter 3, Highway Jurisdiction and Classification
- 308 Act;
- 309 (b) legal actions concerning Title 72, Chapter 3, Highway Jurisdiction and Classification
- 310 Act, or R.S. 2477 matters; or
- 311 (c) any other matter within the office's responsibility.
- 312 (4) In fulfilling the duties under this part, the office shall consult, as necessary, with:
- 313 (a) the Department of Natural Resources;
- 314 (b) the Department of Agriculture and Food;
- 315 (c) the Department of Environmental Quality;
- 316 (d) other applicable state agencies;
- 317 (e) political subdivisions of the state;
- 318 (f) federal land management agencies; and
- 319 (g) elected officials.

320 Section 8. Section **63L-11-305** is amended to read:

321 **63L-11-305 . Facilitating the acquisition of federal land.**

- 322 (1) As used in this section:
- 323 (a) "Federal land" means land that the secretary is authorized to dispose of under the
- 324 federal land disposal law.
- 325 (b) "Federal land disposal law" means the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, 43
- 326 U.S.C. Sec. 869 et seq.
- 327 (c) "Government entity" means any state or local government entity allowed to submit a
- 328 land application under the federal land disposal law.
- 329 (d) "Land application" means an application under the federal land disposal law
- 330 requesting the secretary to sell or lease federal land.
- 331 (e) "Land application process" means the actions involved in the process of submitting
- 332 and obtaining a final decision on a land application.
- 333 (f) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior of the United States.
- 334 (2) The office shall:

- 335 (a) develop expertise:
- 336 (i) in the land application process; and
- 337 (ii) concerning the factors that tend to increase the chances that a land application
- 338 will result in the secretary selling or leasing federal land as requested in the land
- 339 application;
- 340 (b) work to educate government entities concerning:
- 341 (i) the availability of federal land pursuant to the federal land disposal law; and
- 342 (ii) the land application process;
- 343 (c) advise and consult with a government entity that requests assistance from the office
- 344 to formulate and submit a land application and to pursue a decision on the land
- 345 application;
- 346 (d) advise and consult with a government entity that requests assistance from the office
- 347 to identify and quantify the amount of any funds needed to provide the public use
- 348 described in a land application;
- 349 (e) adopt a list of factors to be considered in determining the degree to which a land
- 350 application or potential land application is in the public interest;
- 351 (f) recommend a prioritization of land applications or potential land applications in the
- 352 state according to the extent to which the land applications are in the public interest,
- 353 based on the factors adopted under Subsection (2)(e);
- 354 (g) prepare and submit a written report of land applications:
- 355 (i) to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee and
- 356 the Federalism Commission;
- 357 (ii)(A) annually no later than August 31; and
- 358 (B) at other times, if and as requested by the committee or commission; and
- 359 (iii)(A) on the activities of the office under this section;
- 360 (B) on the land applications and potential land applications in the state;
- 361 (C) on the decisions of the secretary on land applications submitted by
- 362 government entities in the state; and
- 363 (D) the quantity of land acquired under the land applications;
- 364 (h) present a summary of information contained in the report described in Subsection (2)
- 365 (g):
- 366 (i) at a meeting of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim
- 367 Committee and at a meeting of the Federalism Commission;
- 368 (ii) annually no later than August 31; and

369 (iii) at other times, if and as requested by the committee or commission; and  
 370 (i) report to the Executive Appropriations Committee of the Legislature, as frequently as  
 371 the ~~[executive director]~~ senior advisor considers appropriate or as requested by the  
 372 Executive Appropriations Committee, on the need for legislative appropriations to  
 373 provide funds for the public purposes described in land applications.

374 (3) The office may:

- 375 (a) assist a government entity or the secretary in the filing and processing of a land  
 376 application; and
- 377 (b) enter into an agreement with the secretary related to the office assisting in processing  
 378 a land application.

379 Section 9. Section **63L-11-402** is amended to read:

380 **63L-11-402 . Membership -- Terms -- Chair -- Expenses.**

381 (1) The Resource Development Coordinating Committee consists of the following 26  
 382 members:

- 383 (a) the state science advisor;
- 384 (b) a representative from the Department of Agriculture and Food appointed by the  
 385 commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food;
- 386 (c) a representative from the Department of Cultural and Community Engagement  
 387 appointed by the executive director of the Department of Cultural and Community  
 388 Engagement;
- 389 (d) a representative from the Department of Environmental Quality appointed by the  
 390 executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality;
- 391 (e) a representative from the Department of Natural Resources appointed by the  
 392 executive director of the Department of Natural Resources;
- 393 (f) a representative from the Department of Transportation appointed by the executive  
 394 director of the Department of Transportation;
- 395 (g) a representative from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity appointed by  
 396 the director of the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity;
- 397 (h) a representative from the Housing and Community Development Division appointed  
 398 by the director of the Housing and Community Development Division;
- 399 (i) a representative from the Utah Historical Society appointed by the director of the  
 400 Utah Historical Society;
- 401 (j) a representative from the Division of Air Quality appointed by the director of the  
 402 Division of Air Quality;

- 403 (k) a representative from the Division of Drinking Water appointed by the director of the  
404 Division of Drinking Water;
- 405 (l) a representative from the Division of Environmental Response and Remediation  
406 appointed by the director of the Division of Environmental Response and  
407 Remediation;
- 408 (m) a representative from the Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control  
409 appointed by the director of the Division of Waste Management and Radiation  
410 Control;
- 411 (n) a representative from the Division of Water Quality appointed by the director of the  
412 Division of Water Quality;
- 413 (o) a representative from the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining appointed by the director  
414 of the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining;
- 415 (p) a representative from the Division of Parks appointed by the director of the Division  
416 of Parks;
- 417 (q) a representative from the Division of Outdoor Recreation appointed by the director  
418 of the Division of Outdoor Recreation;
- 419 (r) a representative from the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands appointed by the  
420 director of the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands;
- 421 (s) a representative from the Utah Geological Survey appointed by the director of the  
422 Utah Geological Survey;
- 423 (t) a representative from the Division of Water Resources appointed by the director of  
424 the Division of Water Resources;
- 425 (u) a representative from the Division of Water Rights appointed by the director of the  
426 Division of Water Rights;
- 427 (v) a representative from the Division of Wildlife Resources appointed by the director of  
428 the Division of Wildlife Resources;
- 429 (w) a representative from the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration  
430 appointed by the director of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration;
- 431 (x) a representative from the Division of Facilities Construction and Management  
432 appointed by the director of the Division of Facilities Construction and Management;
- 433 (y) a representative from the Division of Emergency Management appointed by the  
434 director of the Division of Emergency Management; and
- 435 (z) a representative from the Division of Conservation, created under Section 4-46-401,  
436 appointed by the director of the Division of Conservation.

- 437 (2)(a) As particular issues require, the coordinating committee may, by majority vote of  
438 the members present, appoint additional temporary members to serve as ex officio  
439 voting members.
- 440 (b) Those ex officio members may discuss and vote on the issue or issues for which they  
441 were appointed.
- 442 (3) A chair shall be selected by a vote of 14 committee members with the concurrence of  
443 the [~~executive director~~] senior advisor.
- 444 (4) A member may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service, but may  
445 receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with:
- 446 (a) Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107; and
- 447 (b) rules made by the Division of Finance pursuant to Sections 63A-3-106 and  
448 63A-3-107.
- 449 Section 10. Section **63L-11-403** is amended to read:
- 450 **63L-11-403 . Senior advisor responsibilities.**
- 451 The [~~executive director~~] senior advisor shall:
- 452 (1) administer this part;
- 453 (2) subject to the direction and approval of the governor, take necessary action to  
454 implement this part; and
- 455 (3) inform political subdivision representatives, in advance, of all coordinating committee  
456 meetings.
- 457 Section 11. Section **67-22-2** is amended to read:
- 458 **67-22-2 . Compensation -- Other state officers.**
- 459 (1) As used in this section:
- 460 (a) "Appointed executive" means the:
- 461 (i) commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food;
- 462 (ii) commissioner of the Insurance Department;
- 463 (iii) commissioner of the Labor Commission;
- 464 (iv) director, Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services;
- 465 (v) commissioner of the Department of Financial Institutions;
- 466 (vi) executive director, Department of Commerce;
- 467 (vii) executive director, Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice;
- 468 (viii) adjutant general;
- 469 (ix) executive director, Department of Cultural and Community Engagement;
- 470 (x) executive director, Department of Corrections;

- 471 (xi) commissioner, Department of Public Safety;
- 472 (xii) executive director, Department of Natural Resources;
- 473 (xiii) executive director, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget;
- 474 (xiv) executive director, Department of Government Operations;
- 475 (xv) executive director, Department of Environmental Quality;
- 476 (xvi) executive director, Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity;
- 477 (xvii) executive director, Department of Workforce Services;
- 478 (xviii) executive director, Department of Health and Human Services, Nonphysician;
- 479 (xix) executive director, Department of Transportation;
- 480 (xx) executive director, Department of Veterans and Military Affairs;
- 481 (xxi) ~~executive director~~ senior advisor, Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office,
- 482 created in Section 63L-11-201;
- 483 (xxii) Great Salt Lake commissioner, appointed under Section 73-32-201; and
- 484 (xxiii) Utah water agent, appointed under Section 73-10g-602.
- 485 (b) "Board or commission executive" means:
- 486 (i) members, Board of Pardons and Parole;
- 487 (ii) chair, State Tax Commission;
- 488 (iii) commissioners, State Tax Commission;
- 489 (iv) executive director, State Tax Commission;
- 490 (v) chair, Public Service Commission; and
- 491 (vi) commissioners, Public Service Commission.
- 492 (c) "Deputy" means the person who acts as the appointed executive's second in
- 493 command as determined by the Division of Human Resource Management.
- 494 (2)(a) The director of the Division of Human Resource Management shall:
- 495 (i) before October 31 of each year, recommend to the governor a compensation plan
- 496 for the appointed executives and the board or commission executives; and
- 497 (ii) base those recommendations on market salary studies conducted by the Division
- 498 of Human Resource Management.
- 499 (b)(i) The Division of Human Resource Management shall determine the salary range
- 500 for the appointed executives by:
- 501 (A) identifying the salary range assigned to the appointed executive's deputy;
- 502 (B) designating the lowest minimum salary from those deputies' salary ranges as
- 503 the minimum salary for the appointed executives' salary range; and
- 504 (C) designating 105% of the highest maximum salary range from those deputies'

505 salary ranges as the maximum salary for the appointed executives' salary range.

506 (ii) If the deputy is a medical doctor, the Division of Human Resource Management  
507 may not consider that deputy's salary range in designating the salary range for  
508 appointed executives.

509 (c)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(c)(ii), in establishing the salary ranges for  
510 board or commission executives, the Division of Human Resource Management  
511 shall set the maximum salary in the salary range for each of those positions at  
512 90% of the salary for district judges as established in the annual appropriation act  
513 under Section 67-8-2.

514 (ii) In establishing the salary ranges for an individual described in Subsection  
515 (1)(b)(ii) or (iii), the Division of Human Resource Management shall set the  
516 maximum salary in the salary range for each of those positions at 100% of the  
517 salary for district judges as established in the annual appropriation act under  
518 Section 67-8-2.

519 (3)(a)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(a)(ii) or Subsection (3)(d), the  
520 governor shall establish a specific salary for each appointed executive within the  
521 range established under Subsection (2)(b).

522 (ii) If the executive director of the Department of Health and Human Services is a  
523 physician, the governor shall establish a salary within the highest physician salary  
524 range established by the Division of Human Resource Management.

525 (iii) The governor may provide salary increases for appointed executives within the  
526 range established by Subsection (2)(b) and identified in Subsection (3)(a)(ii).

527 (b) The governor shall apply the same overtime regulations applicable to other FLSA  
528 exempt positions.

529 (c) The governor may develop standards and criteria for reviewing the appointed  
530 executives.

531 (d) If under Section 73-10g-602 the governor appoints an individual who is serving in an  
532 appointed executive branch position to be the Utah water agent, the governor shall  
533 adjust the salary of the Utah water agent to account for salary received for the  
534 appointed executive branch position.

535 (4) Salaries for other Schedule A employees, as defined in Section 63A-17-301, that are not  
536 provided for in this chapter, or in Title 67, Chapter 8, Utah Elected Official and Judicial  
537 Salary Act, shall be established as provided in Section 63A-17-301.

538 (5)(a) The Legislature fixes benefits for the appointed executives and the board or



- 539 commission executives as follows:
- 540 (i) the option of participating in a state retirement system established by Title 49,
  - 541 Utah State Retirement and Insurance Benefit Act, or in a deferred compensation
  - 542 plan administered by the State Retirement Office in accordance with the Internal
  - 543 Revenue Code and its accompanying rules and regulations;
  - 544 (ii) health insurance;
  - 545 (iii) dental insurance;
  - 546 (iv) basic life insurance;
  - 547 (v) unemployment compensation;
  - 548 (vi) workers' compensation;
  - 549 (vii) required employer contribution to Social Security;
  - 550 (viii) long-term disability income insurance;
  - 551 (ix) the same additional state-paid life insurance available to other noncareer service
  - 552 employees;
  - 553 (x) the same severance pay available to other noncareer service employees;
  - 554 (xi) the same leave, holidays, and allowances granted to Schedule B state employees
  - 555 as follows:
    - 556 (A) sick leave;
    - 557 (B) converted sick leave if accrued prior to January 1, 2014;
    - 558 (C) educational allowances;
    - 559 (D) holidays; and
    - 560 (E) annual leave except that annual leave shall be accrued at the maximum rate
    - 561 provided to Schedule B state employees;
  - 562 (xii) the option to convert accumulated sick leave to cash or insurance benefits as
  - 563 provided by law or rule upon resignation or retirement according to the same
  - 564 criteria and procedures applied to Schedule B state employees;
  - 565 (xiii) the option to purchase additional life insurance at group insurance rates
  - 566 according to the same criteria and procedures applied to Schedule B state
  - 567 employees; and
  - 568 (xiv) professional memberships if being a member of the professional organization is
  - 569 a requirement of the position.
- 570 (b) Each department shall pay the cost of additional state-paid life insurance for its
- 571 executive director from its existing budget.
- 572 (6) The Legislature fixes the following additional benefits:

- 573 (a) for the executive director of the State Tax Commission a vehicle for official and  
574 personal use;
- 575 (b) for the executive director of the Department of Transportation a vehicle for official  
576 and personal use;
- 577 (c) for the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources a vehicle for  
578 commute and official use;
- 579 (d) for the commissioner of Public Safety:
- 580 (i) an accidental death insurance policy if POST certified; and  
581 (ii) a public safety vehicle for official and personal use;
- 582 (e) for the executive director of the Department of Corrections:
- 583 (i) an accidental death insurance policy if POST certified; and  
584 (ii) a public safety vehicle for official and personal use;
- 585 (f) for the adjutant general a vehicle for official and personal use;
- 586 (g) for each member of the Board of Pardons and Parole a vehicle for commute and  
587 official use; and
- 588 (h) for the executive director of the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs a  
589 vehicle for commute and official use.

590 Section 12. Section **79-1-103** is amended to read:

591 **79-1-103 . Coordination council.**

- 592 (1) There is created a coordination council that consists of:
- 593 (a) the executive director of the department;
- 594 (b) the executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality;
- 595 (c) the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food;
- 596 (d) the ~~director~~ senior advisor of the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office; and  
597 (e) the director of the Office of Energy Development.
- 598 (2) The coordination council shall:
- 599 (a) rotate the position of chair among the members; and  
600 (b) meet at least monthly.
- 601 (3) The coordination council shall discuss methods to enhance the coordination of  
602 regulation and services of the five entities.

603 Section 13. Section **79-2-204** is amended to read:

604 **79-2-204 . Division directors -- Appointment -- Removal -- Jurisdiction of**  
605 **executive director.**

- 606 (1)(a) The chief administrative officer of a division within the department is a director

607 appointed by the executive director with the concurrence of the board having policy  
608 authority for the division.

609 (b) The director of a division may be removed from office by the executive director.

610 (c) [The] Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the appointment and term of  
611 office of:

612 (i) the state engineer[~~, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this~~  
613 section,] shall be in accordance with Section 73-2-1[-] ;

614 (ii) the director of the Office of Energy Development shall be in accordance with  
615 Subsection 79-6-401(2); and

616 (iii) the senior advisor of the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office created in  
617 Section 63L-11-201 shall be in accordance with Subsection 63L-11-201(2).

618 (2)(a) The executive director has administrative jurisdiction over a division director for  
619 the purpose of implementing department policy as established by the division's board.

620 (b) The executive director may:

621 (i) consolidate personnel and service functions in the divisions to effectuate  
622 efficiency and economy in the operations of the department;

623 (ii) establish a departmental services division to perform service functions; and

624 (iii) employ law enforcement officers within the department that have all of the  
625 powers of a natural resources officer and law enforcement officer, with the  
626 exception of the power to serve civil process.

627 Section 14. Section **79-6-401** is amended to read:

628 **79-6-401 . Office of Energy Development -- Creation -- Director -- Purpose --**  
629 **Rulemaking regarding confidential information -- Fees -- Transition for employees.**

630 (1) There is created an Office of Energy Development within the Department of Natural  
631 Resources to be administered by a director.

632 (2)(a) The ~~[executive director]~~ governor shall appoint the director ~~[and the director shall~~  
633 ~~serve at the pleasure of the executive director]~~ with the advice and consent of the  
634 Senate.

635 (b) The director shall:

636 (i) have demonstrated the necessary administrative and professional ability through  
637 education and experience to efficiently and effectively manage the office's affairs[-] ;

638 (ii) serve at the pleasure of the governor; and

639 (iii) report to the executive director on matters concerning the office as the executive  
640 director may require.

- 641 (3) The purposes of the office are to:
- 642 (a) serve as the primary resource for advancing energy and mineral development in the  
643 state;
- 644 (b) implement:
- 645 (i) the state energy policy under Section 79-6-301; and  
646 (ii) the governor's energy and mineral development goals and objectives;
- 647 (c) advance energy education, outreach, and research, including the creation of  
648 elementary, higher education, and technical college energy education programs;
- 649 (d) promote energy and mineral development workforce initiatives;
- 650 (e) support collaborative research initiatives targeted at Utah-specific energy and  
651 mineral development;
- 652 (f) in coordination with the Department of Environmental Quality and other relevant  
653 state agencies:
- 654 (i) develop effective policy strategies to advocate for and protect the state's interests  
655 relating to federal energy and environmental entities, programs, and regulations;
- 656 (ii) participate in the federal environmental rulemaking process by:
- 657 (A) advocating for positive reform of federal energy and environmental  
658 regulations and permitting;
- 659 (B) coordinating with other states to develop joint advocacy strategies; and  
660 (C) conducting other government relations efforts; and
- 661 (iii) direct the funding of legal efforts to combat federal overreach and unreasonable  
662 delays regarding energy and environmental permitting; and
- 663 (g) fund the development of detailed and accurate forecasts of the state's long-term  
664 energy supply and demand, including a baseline projection of expected supply and  
665 demand and analysis of potential alternative scenarios.
- 666 (4) By following the procedures and requirements of Title 63J, Chapter 5, Federal Funds  
667 Procedures Act, the office may:
- 668 (a) seek federal grants or loans;
- 669 (b) seek to participate in federal programs; and
- 670 (c) in accordance with applicable federal program guidelines, administer federally  
671 funded state energy programs.
- 672 (5) The office shall perform the duties required by Sections 11-42a-106, 59-5-102,  
673 59-7-614.7, 59-10-1029, Part 5, Alternative Energy Development Tax Credit Act, and  
674 Part 6, High Cost Infrastructure Development Tax Credit Act.

- 675 (6)(a) For purposes of administering this section, the office may make rules, by  
676 following Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to maintain as  
677 confidential, and not as a public record, information that the office receives from any  
678 source.
- 679 (b) The office shall maintain information the office receives from any source at the level  
680 of confidentiality assigned by the source.
- 681 (7) The office may charge application, filing, and processing fees in amounts determined by  
682 the office in accordance with Section 63J-1-504 as dedicated credits for performing  
683 office duties described in this part.
- 684 (8)(a) An employee of the office on April 30, 2024, is an at-will employee.
- 685 (b) For an employee described in Subsection (8)(a) who was employed by the office on  
686 April 30, 2024, the employee shall have the same salary and benefit options an  
687 employee had when the office was part of the office of the governor.
- 688 (c) An employee of the office hired on or after May 1, 2024, shall receive compensation  
689 as provided in Title 63A, Chapter 17, Utah State Personnel Management Act.
- 690 (9)(a) The office shall prepare a strategic energy plan to achieve the state's energy  
691 policy, including:
- 692 (i) technological and infrastructure innovation needed to meet future energy demand  
693 including:
- 694 (A) energy production technologies;
- 695 (B) battery and storage technologies;
- 696 (C) smart grid technologies;
- 697 (D) energy efficiency technologies; and
- 698 (E) any other developing energy technology, energy infrastructure planning, or  
699 investments that will assist the state in meeting energy demand;
- 700 (ii) the state's efficient use and development of:
- 701 (A) energy resources, including natural gas, coal, clean coal, hydrogen, oil, oil  
702 shale, and oil sands;
- 703 (B) renewable energy resources, including geothermal, solar, hydrogen, wind,  
704 biomass, biofuel, and hydroelectric;
- 705 (C) nuclear power; and
- 706 (D) earth minerals;
- 707 (iii) areas of energy-related academic research;
- 708 (iv) specific areas of workforce development necessary for an evolving energy

- 709 industry;
- 710 (v) the development of partnerships with national laboratories; and
- 711 (vi) a proposed state budget for economic development and investment.
- 712 (b) In preparing the strategic energy plan, the office shall:
- 713 (i) consult with stakeholders, including representatives from:
- 714 (A) energy companies in the state;
- 715 (B) private and public institutions of higher education within the state conducting
- 716 energy-related research; and
- 717 (C) other state agencies; and
- 718 (ii) use modeling and industry standard data to:
- 719 (A) define the energy services required by a growing economy;
- 720 (B) calculate energy needs;
- 721 (C) develop state strategy for energy transportation, including transmission lines,
- 722 pipelines, and other infrastructure needs;
- 723 (D) optimize investments to meet energy needs at the least cost and least risk
- 724 while meeting the policy outlined in this section;
- 725 (E) address state needs and investments through a prospective 30-year period,
- 726 divided into five-year working plans; and
- 727 (F) update the plan at least every two years.
- 728 (c) The office shall report annually to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology
- 729 Interim Committee on or before the October interim meeting describing:
- 730 (i) progress towards creation and implementation of the strategic energy plan;
- 731 (ii) the plan's compliance with the state energy policy; and
- 732 (iii) a proposed budget for the office to continue development of the strategic energy
- 733 plan.
- 734 (10) The director shall:
- 735 (a) annually review and propose updates to the state's energy policy, as contained in
- 736 Section 79-6-301;
- 737 (b) promote as the governor considers necessary:
- 738 (i) the development of cost-effective energy resources both renewable and
- 739 nonrenewable; and
- 740 (ii) educational programs, including programs supporting conservation and energy
- 741 efficiency measures;
- 742 (c) coordinate across state agencies to assure consistency with state energy policy,

- 743 including:
- 744 (i) working with the State Energy Program to promote access to federal assistance for  
745 energy-related projects for state agencies and members of the public;
- 746 (ii) working with the Division of Emergency Management to assist the governor in  
747 carrying out the governor's energy emergency powers under Title 53, Chapter 2a,  
748 Part 10, Energy Emergency Powers of the Governor Act;
- 749 (iii) participating in the annual review of the energy emergency plan and the  
750 maintenance of the energy emergency plan and a current list of contact persons  
751 required by Section 53-2a-902; and
- 752 (iv) identifying and proposing measures necessary to facilitate low-income  
753 consumers' access to energy services;
- 754 (d) coordinate with the Division of Emergency Management ongoing activities designed  
755 to test an energy emergency plan to ensure coordination and information sharing  
756 among state agencies and political subdivisions in the state, public utilities and other  
757 energy suppliers, and other relevant public sector persons as required by Sections  
758 53-2a-902, 53-2a-1004, 53-2a-1008, and 53-2a-1010;
- 759 (e) coordinate with requisite state agencies to study:
- 760 (i) the creation of a centralized state repository for energy-related information;
- 761 (ii) methods for streamlining state review and approval processes for energy-related  
762 projects; and
- 763 (iii) the development of multistate energy transmission and transportation  
764 infrastructure;
- 765 (f) coordinate energy-related regulatory processes within the state;
- 766 (g) compile, and make available to the public, information about federal, state, and local  
767 approval requirements for energy-related projects;
- 768 (h) act as the state's advocate before federal and local authorities for energy-related  
769 infrastructure projects or coordinate with the appropriate state agency; and
- 770 (i) help promote the Division of Facilities Construction and Management's measures to  
771 improve energy efficiency in state buildings.
- 772 (11) The director has standing to testify on behalf of the governor at the Public Service  
773 Commission created in Section 54-1-1.
- 774 (12) The office shall include best practices in developing actionable goals and  
775 recommendations as part of preparing and updating every two years the strategic energy  
776 plan required under Subsection (9).

777 (13) The office shall maintain and regularly update a public website that provides an  
778 accessible dashboard of relevant metrics and reports and makes available the data used  
779 to create the strategic energy plan.

780 Section 15. Section **79-6-407** is amended to read:

781 **79-6-407 . Decommissioned Asset Disposition Authority.**

782 (1) As used in this section:

783 (a) "Asset intended for decommissioning" means an electrical generation facility owned  
784 by a project entity that is intended to be removed from active service.

785 (b) "Authority" means the Decommissioned Asset Disposition Authority created in this  
786 section.

787 (c) "Fair market value" means the value of an electrical generation facility considering  
788 both the assets and liabilities of the facility, including the value of water rights  
789 necessary to operate the existing electrical generation facility at full capacity.

790 (d) "Highest and best purchase offer" means the purchase offer for the asset intended for  
791 decommissioning that the authority determines to be in the overall best interest of the  
792 state, considering:

793 (i) the purchase price offer amount;

794 (ii) the potential purchaser's:

795 (A) commitment to utilize the best available control technology;

796 (B) intent to use state resources to the maximum extent feasible;

797 (C) commitment to provide jobs and other economic benefits to the state;

798 (D) intent to promote the interests of state residents and ratepayers; and

799 (E) financial capability; and

800 (iii) any other factors the authority considers relevant.

801 (e) "Project entity" means the same as that term is defined in Section 11-13-103.

802 (2) There is established within the office the Decommissioned Asset Disposition Authority.

803 (3)(a) The authority shall be composed of:

804 (i) the [executive-]director of the office;

805 (ii) two members appointed by the governor;

806 (iii) two members appointed by the president of the Senate; and

807 (iv) two members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

808 (b) The office shall provide staff and support to the authority.

809 (4) The authority shall:

810 (a) provide recommendations to the governor and Legislature regarding the state



- 811 exercising an option to purchase an asset intended for decommissioning;
- 812 (b) if the state exercises an option to purchase the asset intended for decommissioning  
813 under Section 11-13-318:
- 814 (i) enter into contracts and agreements related to the decommissioned asset;
- 815 (ii) govern the disposition of assets intended for decommissioning as outlined in  
816 Subsection (6); and
- 817 (iii) take any other action necessary for governance of a decommissioned asset  
818 purchased by the state;
- 819 (c) contract with independent professionals that have expertise in emissions modeling,  
820 air quality impact assessments, regulatory compliance, and any other discipline  
821 necessary for the preparation and submission of a complete alternative air permit  
822 application, including:
- 823 (i) conducting emissions modeling, air quality impact assessments, and gathering any  
824 other information necessary for inclusion in a complete alternative air permit  
825 application;
- 826 (ii) preparing the full application with all necessary information included, as would  
827 be required for an application submitted by the owner of the electrical generation  
828 facility; and
- 829 (iii) submitting the full permit application to the Division of Air Quality; and
- 830 (d) submit a complete alternative air permit application to the division on or before  
831 December 31, 2024, unless the authority determines that it is not feasible to submit a  
832 complete application on or before that date.
- 833 (5) If the authority determines under Subsection (4)(d) that it is not feasible to submit a  
834 complete application on or before December 31, 2024, the authority shall:
- 835 (a) submit a written report to the Legislative Management Committee on or before  
836 December 15, 2024, explaining the reasons for the delay and providing an estimated  
837 time line for submitting the complete application; and
- 838 (b) submit the complete application to the division as soon as practicable after December  
839 31, 2024.
- 840 (6) If the state exercises an option to purchase or otherwise take control of the asset  
841 intended for decommissioning under Section 11-13-318, the authority may, no sooner  
842 than July 2, 2025:
- 843 (a) hold a public hearing to receive comment and evidence regarding:
- 844 (i) the fair market value of the asset, including the valuation study conducted by the

- 845 authority under Section 79-6-408; and
- 846 (ii) the proposed disposition of the decommissioned asset;
- 847 (b) establish procedures and timelines for potential purchasers to submit binding
- 848 purchase offers;
- 849 (c) evaluate all purchase offers to determine the highest and best purchase offer;
- 850 (d) approve the sale of the decommissioned asset to the purchaser that has submitted the
- 851 highest and best purchase offer; and
- 852 (e) take any other action necessary to govern the disposition of the decommissioned
- 853 asset in accordance with this section.
- 854 (7) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
- 855 authority shall make rules that establish:
- 856 (a) procedures and associated timelines for potential purchasers to submit binding
- 857 purchase offers for a decommissioned asset;
- 858 (b) objective criteria and a process to evaluate all purchase offers submitted for a
- 859 decommissioned asset and determine which purchase offer is the highest and best
- 860 offer; and
- 861 (c) a process for the authority to approve the sale of a decommissioned asset to the
- 862 purchaser that has submitted the highest and best purchase offer.

863 **Section 16. Repealer.**

864 This bill repeals:

865 **Section 63A-16-507, Committee to award grants to counties for inventory and mapping**

866 **of R.S. 2477 rights-of-way -- Use of grants -- Request for proposals.**

867 **Section 1. Effective Date.**

868 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.

869 **Section 18. Coordinating S.B. 149 with other 2025 General Session legislation.**

870 The Legislature intends that, on May 7, 2025, all references to the term "executive

871 director" or "director" of the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office change to "senior

872 advisor" in any new language added to the Utah Code by legislation that passes in the 2025

873 General Session and becomes law.