



INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Legislative Research
and General Counsel

Office of the Legislative
Auditor General

MAY INTERIM COMMITTEES

Business and Labor

STUDY:

- Received presentations on the possible economic and business impacts of an earthquake on the Wasatch Fault. Discussed natural disaster planning and preparedness by state government agencies and the private sector.

*Chairs: Sen. Scott K. Jenkins / Rep. Stephen D. Clark
Staff: Allison Morgan (analyst)/Patricia Owen (attorney)/Tracey Fredman (secretary)*

Education

STUDIES:

- Received presentations from the Utah State Office of Education and school districts on their use of Cognos software to generate a wide variety of reports on students.
- Received a briefing on the DigitalBridge software "DigitalSAMS," which is being used in Iron School District and allows teacher access to student information.
- The Utah State Office of Education demonstrated how school performance reports can be accessed on the Internet.

*Chairs: Sen. Howard A. Stephenson / Rep. Margaret Dayton
Staff: Constance Steffen & Phillip Dean (analysts)/Dee Larsen (attorney)/Glenda Whitney (secretary)*

Government Operations

STUDIES:

- Reviewed a new election dates tool available on the Legislature's website (www.le.utah.gov) to facilitate public access to key annual election dates and deadlines. (See Page 3.)
- Discussed draft legislation "Referendum - Signature Verification Procedures," which establishes uniform standards for signature verification on referendum petitions.
- Discussed possible technical amendments to Utah's Election Code (Utah Code Title 20A).

REPORTS:

- Received a briefing from the Division of Facilities Construction and Management on the Building Board Five-Year Building Program, the capital budget funding history, construction status reports, and the Master Plan for State Office Space Needs. (Continued)

- Received a report on the functions of the Division of Finance and the Office of the Utah Attorney General.

*Chairs: Sen. Parley Hellewell / Rep. Douglas C. Aagard
Staff: Benjamin Christensen (analyst)/Eric Weeks (attorney)/Brooke Ollerton (secretary)*

Health and Human Services

REPORTS:

- Received a report from the Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council on the implementation of the Drug Offender Reform Pilot Study.
- Received reports from the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, and the Department of Health on the prevalence, prevention, and treatment of substance abuse.

*Chairs: Sen. Allen M. Christensen / Rep. Bradley G. Last
Staff: Mark Andrews (analyst)/Catherine Dupont, Thomas Vaughn (attorneys)/Joy Miller (secretary)*

Judiciary

STUDIES:

- Reviewed statutes regarding temporary child custody orders, which sometimes remain in effect for extended periods.
- Reviewed the repeal date of Utah Code Section 78-9-101, Unauthorized Practice of Law.

REPORTS:

- Received a report on the "Divorce Education Program," which increases divorcing parents' awareness of their children's needs during and after the divorce. (Continued)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Pages 1-3: May Interim Committees**
- Page 3: New Legislative Website Tools
Legislators' Back to School Program**
- Page 4: Legislative Management
Committee Report
President Vicente Fox Visits Utah
Special Session Bills Passed**

- Received a report on the number of participants and the resolution rates in mediation programs for domestic, co-parenting, land-lord tenant, small claims, child welfare, truancy, and victim-offender issues.

Chairs: Sen. David L. Thomas / Rep. James A. Ferrin

Staff: Jerry Howe (analyst)/Esther Chelsea-McCarty (attorney)/Brooke Ollerton (secretary)

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

STUDIES:

- Discussed law enforcement agencies' use of the Utah Criminal Justice Information System, including online access in police vehicles.
- Received a staff presentation on the types of penalty enhancements among various crime categories. Reviewed maps indicating areas subject to the statutory 1000-foot "drug-free" zones, such as schools and parks.

REPORT:

- Received the Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) ten-year inmate population management plan and discussed inmate population growth issues.

ACTION:

- Requested that UDC provide specific plans to reduce prison populations through optimal levels of treatment.

Chairs: Sen. D.C. Butters / Rep. DeMar "Bud" Bowman

Staff: Stewart E. Smith (analyst)/Susan Creager Allred (attorney)/Wendy Bangerter (secretary)

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

STUDY:

- Discussed current energy issues.

REPORTS:

- Received a report from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Utah Office of the Attorney General on the current status of the proposal by Private Fuel Storage to store high level nuclear waste in Skull Valley, Utah.
- Received a report from DEQ on mercury contamination in Utah, including the impact on the Great Salt Lake. DEQ also reviewed the implementation of H.B. 138 (2005 General Session), "Mercury Switch Removal Act," and outlined other actions DEQ is taking to mitigate mercury contamination.

Chairs: Sen. Thomas V. Hatch / Rep. Roger E. Barrus

Staff: Brian Allred (analyst)/Emily R. Brown (attorney)/Joy Miller (secretary)

Political Subdivisions

STUDIES:

- Discussed the implementation of H.B. 77 (2006 General Session), "School District Boundaries," which allows the governing bodies of certain cities and counties to submit for voter approval a proposal to establish a new school district.

(Continued)

- Discussed issues related to school districts' compliance with state laws regarding the inspection of school construction.
- Received a briefing on implications of the recent Utah Supreme Court case *Summit Water Distribution Co. v. Summit County*, which addresses antitrust exemptions for political subdivisions.

Chairs: Sen. Carlene M. Walker / Rep. Brad L. Dee

Staff: Joseph Wade (analyst)/Robert Rees (attorney)/Wendy Bangerter (secretary)

Public Utilities and Technology

REPORTS:

- Received a report from Symantec regarding Internet security threats, including motivations, targeting, and vulnerabilities. The report also included best practices, model legislation, and legislative recommendations.
- Received a report regarding the development of Utah oil shale.
- Received a report from both state and federal agencies outlining their respective natural resource extraction permit processes for oil, gas, and mining. The Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining reported issuing a record number of over 1600 drilling permits during 2005. The federal Bureau of Land Management outlined the congressional acts which regulate its activities.

Chairs: Sen. Gregory S. Bell / Rep. Sheryl L. Allen

Staff: Richard North (analyst)/Christopher Parker (attorney)/Phalin Flowers (secretary)

Revenue and Taxation

STUDY:

- Reviewed proposed federal legislation regarding the collection of use taxes on certain transactions and whether this legislation would impose an unfair burden on businesses and circumvent state sovereignty.

ACTIONS:

- Adopted the following draft bills and recommended they be introduced in an upcoming Special Session of the Legislature:
 - "Access to Information Gained by the State Tax Commission from a Return,"
 - "Sales and Use Tax Relating to Food."
- Reviewed changes to certain fees imposed on sailboats, canoes, utility boats, and collapsible inflatable vessels, and asked the Utah State Tax Commission to notify each county legislative body that under Section 59-12-1347 the body may issue a property tax refund to taxpayers who have paid increased fees on these vessels.

Chairs: Sen. Curtis S. Bramble / Rep. Wayne A. Harper

*Staff: Bryant Howe & Phillip Dean (analysts)/Rebecca Rockwell & Angela D. Oakes (attorneys)
Phalin Flowers (secretary)*

Transportation

STUDIES:

- Studied the Salt Lake County traffic mitigation surcharge and whether the surcharge should be repealed as scheduled in 2007 or extended and applied to additional counties.
- Studied the impact of the trucking industry in Utah and evaluated the effectiveness of Utah's large truck traffic laws.

REPORT:

- Received recommendations from the trucking industry on funding highway needs in the state, including the industry preference for a gas tax increase rather than a toll road.

ACTION:

- Received a report by the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice regarding the statutory provisions for race categories on driver license application. The committee recommended that the Legislature allow the statute to sunset, and also directed staff to draft legislation to repeal any related provisions.

Chairs: Sen. Sheldon L. Killpack / Rep. Joseph G. Murray

*Staff: Mark Steinagel (analyst)/Shannon Halverson & Christopher Parker (attorneys)
Tracey Fredman (secretary)*

Workforce Services & Community and Economic Development

STUDIES:

- Received a presentation from the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) on providing incentives for in-state companies through the Industrial Assistance Fund and the Economic Development Tax Incentive Fund.
- Received a presentation from GOED on efforts to increase opportunities for Utah companies to competitively bid on government contracts.

REPORT:

- Received an update from GOED on rural economic development efforts.

ACTION:

- Directed staff to draft legislation regarding economic development incentives for existing and new in-state companies.

Chairs: Sen. John W. "Bill" Hickman / Rep. David N. Cox

Staff: Art Hunsaker (analyst)/Jim Wilson (attorney)/Glenda Whitney (secretary)

Legislative Site Visit

August 7-8

Uintah Basin

NEW LEGISLATIVE WEBSITE TOOLS

"Who is my legislator?" Here's the quick answer!

"Find Legislators by Address or Map" is a new tool on the legislative website under "Featured Links" (www.le.utah.gov). (See web page below.) Enter an address or click and zoom on the map to promptly find an area's legislators and links to their biographical and contact information.

The direct web address is: <http://le.utah.gov/maps/amap.html>.

Utah Election Dates and Deadlines on the Web

Utah's election dates and deadlines are easy to find on the legislative website at "Utah Election Dates" under "Featured Links" on the home page (www.le.utah.gov).

This site provides the key dates for municipal and general elections, campaign finance, voter registration, and other statutory election information.

The direct web address is: <http://www.le.state.ut.us/asp/election/dates/dates.asp?year=2006&type=0>.

UTAH LEGISLATORS AT THE TOP!



Legislators nationwide teach students about the legislative process through the NCSL America's Legislators Back to School program. Participating legislators reach out to our future voters and leaders and share the experience

of serving as a legislator through discussion and age appropriate activities. The program was originally held for one week annually, but is now year-round.

In 2002, Utah legislators visited 9,000 students as part of the new program. During the 2005-06 school year, Utah's legislators met with 18,210 students, doubling the number of students involved annually. Eighty-one percent of Utah's legislators reported participating in the program during this school year, placing Utah as the top state for legislator involvement.

Visit <http://www.le.utah.gov/lrgc/backtoschool.htm> for more information about this program.

LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**REPORT:**

- Received a staff report on the tentative schedule for the legislative site visit to the Uintah Basin on August 7-8, 2006.

ACTIONS:

- Authorized the Utah Highway Patrol Dignitary Protection Bureau (Capitol Security) and the U.S. Secret Service to provide security for the visit of Mexican President Vicente Fox to the House (West) Building on May 24, 2006 to speak to the Legislature in a Joint Convention.
- Approved the settlement agreement in the case of *Ethington v. University of Utah College of Nursing*.

*Chair: Rep. Greg J. Curtis/Chair: Sen. John L. Valentine, Vice Chair
Staff: Mike Christensen, OLRGC Director/M. Gay Taylor, OLRGC General Counsel
Beverlee LeCheminant, Secretary*

Mexico's President Vicente Fox Addresses Joint Convention of the Legislature

President Vicente Fox addressed a Joint Convention of the Legislature on May 24th. He emphasized Mexico's progress and partnership with Utah and the United States.

President Fox also encouraged bilateral cooperation to manage migration by expanding social and economic opportunities in Mexico.

Bills Passed - 3rd Special Session - May 24, 2006

Number	Title	Sponsor
H.B. 3001S2	Technical Reallocation of Transportation Funding	<i>R. Bigelow</i>
H.B. 3002	Appropriation to Fund New Drivers License Programs	<i>R. Bigelow</i>
H.B. 3003	Shelter Hearing Technical Amendments	<i>W. Harper</i>
H.B. 3004	Sales and Use Tax Relating to Food	<i>B. Ferry</i>
H.J.R. 301	Resolution Approving Use of Federal Funds by the Department of Natural Resources	<i>D. Clark</i>
S.B. 3001	Appropriation Transfer for Division of Museum Services	<i>L. Hillyard</i>
S.B. 3002S1	Access to Information Gained by the State Tax Commission from a Return	<i>C. Bramble</i>
S.B. 3003	Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act - Transitional Provisions	<i>L. Hillyard</i>
S.B. 3004	Securities Amendments	<i>C. Bramble</i>
S.B. 3007	Economic Development Tax Incentive Fund Appropriation Modification	<i>L. Hillyard</i>
S.C.R. 301	Approval of Transportation Maintenance Shed Construction	<i>J. Hickman</i>
S.C.R. 302	Resolution Approving Parking Structure for Capitol Complex	<i>L. A. Mansell</i>



Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel
House Building, Suite W210 S Salt Lake City, UT S 84114
(801) 538-1032

For more information about legislative activities, visit the Utah State Legislature's website at: www.le.utah.gov.

*Editors: Susan Creager Allred & Stewart E. Smith
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel*

Next Interim Day - June 21st