



INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Legislative Research
and General Counsel

Office of the Legislative
Auditor General

INTERIM LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

Meetings were held April 16, 2008, or as noted.

Business and Labor

STUDY:

- Discussed proposed study items from S.J.R. 11, Master Study Resolution, and other priorities for the 2008 interim.

*Chairs: Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell / Rep. Stephen D. Clark
Staff: Allison Nicholson (analyst)/Patricia Owen (attorney)/Phalin L. Flowers (secretary)*

Education

STUDIES:

- Reviewed public education funding bills enacted in the 2008 General Session and a report from the Utah State Office of Education on the implementation of the bills.
- Received a briefing on potential issues regarding the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.
- Received a presentation on requirements under the federal No Child Left Behind program to restructure schools that do not make adequate yearly progress. Committee staff reported on school restructuring in other states.

REPORT:

- Received a report from the Superintendent of Uinta School District on the restructuring of a middle school.

*Chairs: Sen. Howard A. Stephenson / Rep. Gregory H. Hughes
Staff: Constance C. Steffen & Phillip V. Dean (analysts)/Dee S Larsen (attorney)
Glenda S. Whitney (secretary)*

Government Operations

STUDY:

- Discussed potential study items for the 2008 interim.

REPORTS:

- Received a report on the Utah Public Notice Website, which will start October 1, 2008. Public bodies in Utah will be required to provide notice of their meetings for the website.
- Received a briefing from the Division of Facilities Construction and Management (DFCM) on the Building Board Five-year Building Program, Construction Status Reports, and the Salt Lake Area Master Plan for State Office Space Needs.
- Received a briefing on bills related to government operations that passed during the 2008 General Session.

ACTION:

- Voted to request that DFCM bring additional information to the committee regarding the Salt Lake downtown area office space and acreage needs for the next 10 and 20 years.

*Chairs: Sen. Peter C. Knudson / Rep. Douglas C. Aagard
Staff: Benjamin N. Christensen (analyst)/Eric N. Weeks (attorney)/Chelsea Barrett (secretary)*

Health and Human Services

STUDY:

- Considered whether changes could be made to improve the process for funeral directors, physicians, and the Department of Health when filing death certificates.

REPORTS:

- Received a report from the Department of Health, the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, the Utah Medical Association, and the Utah Hospitals and Health Systems Association regarding:
 - prescription opiate misuse and addiction; and
 - the implementation of legislation passed during the 2008 General Session requiring the creation of a pilot program for real-time reporting and access to the state's controlled substance database.
- Received input from the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, and the Insurance Department, and identified topics to be studied during the interim.

ACTION:

- Voted to request that the Legislative Management Committee approve the creation of a subcommittee to meet three times to consider the issue of opiate misuse and addiction.

*Chairs: Sen. D. Chris Buttars / Rep. Paul Ray
Staff: Mark D. Andrews (analyst)/Catherine J. Dupont & Thomas R. Vaughn (attorneys)
Joy L. Miller (secretary)*

IN THIS ISSUE:

Pages	1	Summaries of Legislative Meetings
Page	3	Task Forces and Audits
Page	6	Legislative Management Committee

Judiciary

STUDIES:

- Considered options for regulating the use of unsecured wireless networks to limit access to illegal, obscene, and pornographic materials, especially by minors.
- Considered amendments to condominium and community association provisions in Title 57, Chapter 8, Condominium Ownership Act, and Title 57, Chapter 8a, Community Association Act, that currently permit non-judicial foreclosures.

REPORT:

- Previewed statutorily required reports, sunset reviews, and potential study items from S.J.R. 11, Master Study Resolution.

Chairs: Sen. Gregory S. Bell / Rep. Eric K. Hutchings

Staff: Jerry D. Howe (analyst)/Esther Chelsea-McCarty (attorney)/Amanda K. Majers (secretary)

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

STUDIES:

- Reviewed public safety communications issues.
- Received a report from the Communications Bureau in the Department of Public Safety addressing the low salaries, high employee turnover, and stressful working conditions among public safety dispatchers, and the need to increase salaries and fund additional positions.
- Received an introduction to the new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) bandwidth reductions scheduled for 2013 and how this change will affect public safety communications.

REPORTS:

- Received from committee staff an overview of 2008 General Session statistics, that 92% of the Committee's bills passed, and provided a list of the studies referred to the committee by the Legislative Management Committee.
- Received a report from the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice on issues relating to mentally ill offenders, their high recidivism rates, and the costs of treatment.
- Received a report from the Utah Sentencing Commission and the Utah Criminal Justice Center on the effects on prison populations of changes to the criminal statutes.
- Received an update from the Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) on the opening in September of a new 192-bed facility at the Central Utah Correctional Facility in Gunnison, Utah.
- Received a report from UDC on issues relating to the shortage of correctional officers and efforts to address this situation, transportation of inmates, providing more inmate medical care on site, sex offender treatment funding, and the need for culinary space to prepare and serve food for the growing inmate population.

ACTIONS:

- Requested by motion that the Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee make funding of public safety dispatchers part of its agenda this interim.
- Requested by motion that the Capitol Facilities and Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee study the implications of the new FCC bandwidth reductions scheduled for the year 2013.

Chairs: Sen. Jon J. Greiner / Rep. DeMar "Bud" Bowman

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

Wendy L. Bangerter (secretary)

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

STUDY:

- Discussed recodification of the Department of Natural Resources provisions in the Utah Code.

REPORT:

- Received a report from the Division of Water Resources on snowpack and water resources conditions in Utah.

ACTION:

- Conducted a sunset review of Title 19, Chapter 2, Air Conservation Act, and recommended that the act be reauthorized for five years.

Chairs: Sen. Darin G. Peterson / Rep. Roger E. Barrus

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

Political Subdivisions

STUDIES:

- Received a briefing from each sponsor of a study item assigned to the committee regarding the impetus for the study item.
- Discussed the relationship between state agency activities and local government regulation of those activities.
- Discussed three issues relating to local districts:
 - electrical power in Garfield and Kane Counties;
 - irrigation in the area of Enterprise and Beryl; and
 - bonding issues for assessment areas.

REPORT:

- Received a briefing on Vision Dixie, which is a county-wide conversation created to provide opportunities for the public to make informed recommendations for the future of Washington County.

Chairs: Sen. Dennis E. Stowell / Rep. Fred R Hunsaker

Staff: Joseph T. Wade (analyst)/Robert H. Rees (attorney)/Wendy L. Bangerter (secretary)

Public Utilities and Technology

STUDY:

- Discussed the need for identifying power generation sources and areas of the state that represent potential energy development zones, which would include all types of economically feasible energy resources. Also discussed the need for creating an executive branch energy zone development task force.

REPORTS:

- Received a memo outlining the uranium mining lawsuit in Southern Utah and Northern Arizona against the U.S. Forest Service for issuing exploratory drilling permits. The committee also received a letter supporting the issuing of the permits by the U.S. Forest Service.
- Received a brief report about the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Utah Rock House Environmental Assessment lawsuit and the subsequent proposal to permit the drilling of natural gas wells. A proposed letter supporting the BLM was also distributed and discussed.
- Received a report on the status of federal lawsuits regarding proposed federal rule making and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulation of carbon dioxide. A proposed letter supporting the EPA was also discussed.

Chairs: Sen. Scott K. Jenkins / Rep. Michael E. Noel

Staff: Richard C. North (analyst)/Christopher R. Parker (attorney)/Tracey Fredman (secretary)

Revenue and Taxation

STUDIES:

- Received a staff presentation on Utah's property tax system, including an overview of constitutional requirements, a description of the property tax base and rates, how Utah's property tax system compares with others states, how Utah's "truth in taxation" system operates, and property tax relief programs.
- Reviewed a proposed study outline for the committee's review of the state property tax system.

REPORT:

- Received a staff report on recent trends in the Utah economy and an update on collections for major state tax sources. Combined major revenue sources in the General and Education Funds for the first nine month of this fiscal year are 0.4% higher than the same period last year.

Chairs: Sen. Wayne L. Niederhauser / Rep. John Dougall

Staff: Bryant R. Howe, Phillip V. Dean, & Leif G. Elder (analysts)/Rebecca L. Rockwell & Angela D. Oakes (attorneys)/Phalin L. Flowers (secretary)

Transportation

STUDIES:

- Discussed H.B. 147, 2008 General Session, "Restrictions and Regulation of Automotive Collection Activities."
- Reviewed the federal REAL ID Act of 2005 and the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative and their impact on Utah's driver license and driving privilege card programs.

REPORT:

- Received an update on the Centennial Highway Fund.

Chairs: Sen. Carlene Walker / Rep. Todd Kiser
Staff: Leif G. Elder (analyst)/Shannon C. Halverson (attorney)
Tracey Fredman (secretary)

Workforce Services & Community and Economic Development

STUDY:

- Discussed issues the Department of Workforce Services, the Department of Community and Culture, the Governor's Office of Economic Development, and committee members have recommended for committee study during the 2008 interim.

REPORT:

- Received a report from the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) regarding identity thefts committed by a former DWS employee, and steps taken by the department to prevent future identity thefts.

ACTION:

- Directed staff to open a bill file reintroducing legislation on an inventory of state-owned art.

Chairs: Sen. Mark B. Madsen / Rep. Steven R. Mascaro

Staff: Arthur L. Hunsaker (analyst)/James L. Wilson (attorney)/Glenda S. Whitney (secretary)

Legislative Management Committee

(March 26, 2008)

REPORT:

- Received a statistical report on the 2008 General Session from the Director of the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

ACTIONS:

- Approved specified changes in Legislative Management Committee (LMC) policies as recommended by the Legislative General Counsel.
- Approved the request from the Education Interim Committee, and the Public Education and the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittees, to hold a joint meeting in Cedar City with the Board of Education and the State Board of Regents. Also authorized the newly created Higher Education and Applied Technology Governance Committee to attend the meeting if it wishes.
- Made assignments to the following interim committees and authorized them to meet up to five additional times:
 - Education - to study the issues of performance, differentiated, and merit pay for teachers.
 - Revenue and Taxation - to study the issues related to property tax.

LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- Created two new interim committees:
 - Immigration Interim Committee; and
Higher Education and Applied Technology Governance Committee
 - Each of the new committees will have 11 members. The Speaker will appoint seven members to each committee, including two from the minority party. The President will appoint four members to each committee, including one from the minority party. The committees are authorized to meet up to eight times and expires December 31, 2008.
- Approved the Master Study Resolution assignments to committees.
- Assigned sunset and repeal studies to interim committees.

*Chairs: Sen. John L. Valentine / Rep. Greg J. Curtis
Staff: Michael E. Christensen (Director)/M. Gay Taylor (General Counsel)/
Beverlee LeCheminant (Administrative Assistant)*

Dates for 2008 interim committee meetings:

April 16	(Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC) meets Tuesday the 15th)
May 21	(EAC and LMC meet Tuesday the 20th)
June 18	(EAC meets Tuesday the 17th)
July	No meetings in July
August 20	(EAC and LMC meet Tuesday the 19th)
September 17	(EAC meets Tuesday the 16th)
October 15	(EAC and LMC meet Tuesday the 14th)
November 19	(EAC meets Tuesday the 18th)

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



2007 TASK FORCE INFORMATION

Task Forces Enacted – 2008 General Session

Health System Reform Task Force (until 11/30/08)
Immigration Interim Committee
Information Technology Steering Committee
Higher Education and Applied Technology Governance Committee

Ongoing Task Forces

Rules Committee Recodification
State Water Development Commission (until 12/31/2018)
Utah International Trade Commission (until 12/31/2017)

Task Forces Discontinued or Repealed

Government Competition and Privatization Subcommittee
Higher Education Task Force
Judicial Retention Election Task Force
Local Issues Task Force
Medicaid Interim Committee

APPROVED AUDITS

Provided by Office of the Legislative Auditor General

Approved Audits	Date Approved
URS Administrative Functions	January 2008

Audits in Process	Estimated Release Date
Division of Securities	May 2008
Davis Behavioral Health	May 2008
School Building Construction	June 2008
Delivery of Adult Education Services	June 2008
Jail Contracting	July 2008
In-depth Follow-up of Guardian ad Litem	August 2008
Public Lands Coordinating Office	August 2008
School Busing Costs	September 2008
Economic Development/Uintah Basin	September 2008
School LAND Trust Program	September 2008