Administrative Rules

(October 31, 2008)

STUDY:
• Discussed whether police officers should have the option of purchasing their firearm during their service rather than being required to wait until they retire.

ACTION:
• Approved as a committee bill, “Amendments to Agency Rulemaking Regarding Criminal Penalties.”

(November 17, 2008)

STUDY:
• Discussed amending the Administrative Rulemaking Act to clarify that if an agency already has a rule in place that accomplishes the purpose of rulemaking that is required in enacted legislation, the agency is not required to conduct additional rulemaking.

REPORTS:
• Received a report from the Utah State Office of Education that R277-117, a Utah State Board of Education rule, will be amended to remove any potential conflict with statutory provisions regarding the timing of releasing protected documents.

• Received reports from Epidemiology and Laboratory Services, Department of Health, and the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice explaining why the agencies had not met the statutory requirement for filing rules within 180 days after legislation passes that requires the rules.

Business and Labor

Received a presentation from the Department of Insurance and a committee member on life settlements and possible legislation that would allow legitimate life settlement agreements while protecting consumers against deceptive practices.

Continued next column
Government Operations

STUDIES:
- The committee considered the following draft legislation:
  - “Access to Voter Date of Birth Records”; and
  - “State Agency Requirements - Forms and Returned Mail.”

ACTION:
- Approved as committee bills:
  - “Ballot Question Amendments”;
  - “Coordinating Municipal and Special District Elections”;
  - “Declaration of Candidacy Amendments”;
  - “Early Voting Amendments”;
  - “Local and Special Service District Election Amendments”; and
  - “Online Voter Registration”;
  - “Open and Public Meetings Act - Meeting Record”; and
  - “Voter Challenge Amendments.”

Staff: Benjamin N. Christensen (analyst)/Christopher R. Parker (attorney)/Chelsea Barrett (secretary)

Health and Human Services

STUDIES:
- Reviewed draft legislation developed and recommended by the Administrative Rules Review Committee, and supported by the Department of Health, that repeals the department’s and other state agencies’ authority to determine by rule conduct that constitutes a criminal offense.
- Received a report from the Office of the Legislative Auditor General on its July 2008 audit of Davis Behavioral Health. Also received comment from Davis Behavioral Health, the Davis Behavioral Health Board of Trustees, a Davis County Commissioner, and the state Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health.
- Received comments from a legislator, NAMI Utah, and the Disability Law Center about a proposed Assertive Community Treatment Team Pilot Program that would allow persons with serious and persistent mental illness who have failed to respond to other treatment to stay in their homes and communities rather than enter long-term care.

REPORTS:
- Received the annual report from the Licensed Direct-entry Midwife Board.
- Received a report from the Family Connection Center on the shortage of capacity in family support centers to meet the demand for crisis nurseries to provide respite care.
- Received a written report from the Utah Association of Local Health Departments on local health department duties and funding sources.

Staff: Constance C. Steffen & Phillip V. Dean (analysts)/Dee S. Larsen (attorney)/Glenda S. Whitney (secretary)

Continued next page
ACTIONS:
- Approved as committee bills:
  - “Adoption Revisions”;
  - “Expedited Partner Therapy Treatment”; and
  - “Family Preservation Services Amendments.”
- Recommended that the sunset date for Section 78B-3-421, which governs the use of medical malpractice arbitration agreements, be extended for ten years and that the section be placed within Title 78B, Chapter 11, Utah Uniform Arbitration Act. Received comments from the Utah Association for Justice (formerly the Utah Trial Lawyers Association) and the Utah Medical Association.

Health System Reform Task Force
(October 31, 2008)

STUDIES:
- Received a report from the Insurer Input Group on its recommendations for health care reform, including the development of new insurance products priced at 60% to 70% of average large-group policies. The report included a presentation by the Utah Association of Health Underwriters on the use of an Internet application designed to promote competition among insurers and connect uninsurable individuals with public health care programs.
- Received a report from Prometheus, a health care corporation, on the use of episode of care reimbursement.
- Received a report from the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee on the subcommittee’s recent study of how three mechanisms might be used by Utah’s Medicaid program as part of health care reform:
  - health opportunity accounts;
  - medical homes; and
  - episodes of care pricing.
- Received a report from the Advisor to the Governor on Health System Reform on the status of specific tasks with which executive branch agencies were charged by H.B. 133, “Health System Reform” (2008).

Immigration
(November 12, 2008 - St. George, Utah)

REPORTS:
- Received a presentation from the United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, on how to use E-Verify, a voluntary, web-based system that allows businesses to verify the citizenship status of new employees.
- Received a report from a member of the Arizona House of Representatives regarding Arizona’s experiences with illegal immigration.
- Received a report from the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah regarding error rates in the United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services’ E-Verify system.
- Received a report from the St. George Area Chamber of Commerce regarding the impact of immigration on the area’s business community.
- Received a report from a resident of the St. George area regarding the impact of immigration on the community and steps the community has taken to address the issue.

Judiciary

REPORTS:
- Received a report from the Department of Corrections and the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice regarding the effectiveness of the sex offender treatment program and its funding. The program has not received new funding since 1996, but the prison population of sex offenders has more than doubled since then, resulting in a dramatically increased demand for treatment services. Inmates who successfully complete sex offender treatment are more likely to be paroled because they are significantly less likely to have any form of recidivism.
Received a report from the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice regarding DUI-related statistics, including arrests, convictions, and fatalities. According to the report, DUI-related arrests increased in 2007 by more than 630, to a total of 15,297. Utah maintained the lowest rate of DUI-related fatalities in the United States.

Received a report from the Administrative Office of the Court regarding a Self-Help Pilot Project located in the Matheson Courthouse in Salt Lake City. The project was designed by the Judicial Council to assist the thousands of people who appear in Utah’s courts each year trying to handle their cases without legal representation.

ACTIONS:

- Voted to allow Section 78A-2-109, regarding the courts’ Case Management program, to be repealed by its sunset provision. Even though the program has been determined to be successful, the court funding of this program has been discontinued due to budget cuts.
- Approved as committee bills, “Wrongful Death Amendments.”

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

STUDIES:

- Discussed the “Matrix Sentencing Guidelines,” which provide the typical length of incarceration for each category of crime, and which may be modified by the specifics of the offense. The total incarceration time may not exceed the statutory maximum for the offense.
- Received information regarding the genetic basis for significantly higher risks of birth defects in children born of incest. Discussed the difficulties in prosecuting incest cases under current law, and discussed proposed legislation to address these concerns.

REPORTS:

- Received statutorily required reports from:
  - the Utah Department of Health’s Emergency Medical Services Committee;
  - the Immigration Interim Committee; and
  - the Pawnshop and Secondhand Merchandise Advisory Board in the Division of Consumer Protection, Utah Department of Commerce.

ACTIONS:

- Approved as committee bills:
  - “Criminal Procedure - Investigation Amendments”;
  - “Gun Dealer Penalty Amendments”;
  - “Incest Amendments”;
  - “Subpoenas for Records in Certain Criminal Investigations”;
  - “Prohibited Activities of Gang Offenders”;
  - “Prohibited Gang Activity”; and
  - “Sex Offender Registration Amendments.”

Native American Legislative Liaison Committee

(November 18, 2008)

REPORTS:

- Received reports required by statute from:
  - the Uintah Basin Revitalization Fund;
  - the Navajo Revitalization Fund;
  - the Utah Division of Indian Affairs; and
  - the Native American Remains Review Committee.

ACTION:

- Approved as a committee bill, “Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council Amendments.”

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

STUDIES:

- Considered draft legislation, “Coal Mining and Reclamation Amendments.”
- Discussed potential changes to the payment system for Utah wildland fire suppression.
- Reviewed committee actions on energy development and discussed potential legislation and issues for the 2009 General Session.

REPORTS:

- Received a report from the Executive Water Task Force on its recommendations.
- Received a report from the Administrative Rules Review Committee on proposed statutory modifications to agency criminal penalty rulemaking powers.

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

STUDIES:
- Considered a proposal to authorize the creation of an improvement district to provide electrical service to Ticaboo in Garfield County.
- Considered a proposal to authorize the creation of a ground water management district to address ground water over-allocation issues. This proposal could potentially resolve a problem of over-allocation of ground water in the Enterprise/Beryl area of Utah.
- Considered a proposal regarding abandoned property taken under the threat of eminent domain.

REPORT:
- Received an update from the affordable housing ad hoc task force organized by the Utah League of Cities and Towns.

ACTIONS:
- Approved as committee bills:
  - “Local Government Entity Changes”;
  - “Local Public Health Emergency Funding”; and
  - “State and Local Health Authorities Amendments.”

Revenue and Taxation

STUDIES:
- Reviewed draft legislation, “Public Hearings on Property Tax Increases,” and received public comments regarding the legislation.
- Reviewed a proposal to provide a payment from the state in lieu of a property tax to certain municipalities impacted by tax exempt property.
- Received comments on the effects of California’s property tax increase limitation policies.
- Reviewed draft legislation, “Local District Taxing Authority,” and received public comments regarding the legislation.
- Received a committee staff introduction and brief overview of the following draft legislation related to public school financing:
  - “Property Tax Amendments”;
  - “Public School Funding”; and
  - “Property Tax Revisions.”

REPORTS:
- Received reports from the Utah State Tax Commission regarding:
  - changes to federal income tax law that affect the state income tax system; and
  - the number of taxpayers making contributions under the state individual income tax and claiming certain credits under the state individual income tax and corporate franchise and income taxes.
- Received an annual report from the Utah Tax Review Commission. The commission presented recommendations regarding the state’s oil and gas severance taxes and the taxation of pass-through entities and pass-through entity taxpayers.

Public Utilities and Technology

STUDIES:
- Considered the following draft legislation:
  - “Mobile Home Parks Amendments”;
  - “Underground Sewer Utilities Facilities Amendments”; and
  - “Public Service Commission Powers - Area Code Assignment.”

REPORTS:
- Received a report, “A Rational Look At Climate Change Concerns,” from Deseret Power Electric Cooperative, detailing the release of carbon by fuel source, the cost per kwh, and projected electric energy needs. The report stated that shutting down all coal-fired power plants in the United States would only result in a 0.07 of one degree decline by 2100.
- Received a report from the Governor’s Energy Advisor and the Utah Geological Survey about the 2008 Phase I activities of the Utah Renewable Energy Zone Task Force. The goal of Phase I is to identify areas of the state where large-scale renewable energy development could occur, and assess the electrical generation potential of wind, solar, and geothermal technologies. Phase II will identify transmission corridor needs and the economics of bringing renewable energy to the market.
• Received a report regarding efforts to improve the transparency of various government financial reporting information.

• Received a report from the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst providing an estimate of the revenue effect of eliminating the age requirement for eligibility for the circuit breaker tax credit program.

ACTIONS:
• Approved as committee bills:
  ▶ “Amendments to Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Certain Machinery, Equipment, or Parts”;
  ▶ “Amendments to Tourism, Recreation, Cultural, Convention, and Airport Facilities Tax Act”;
  ▶ “Amendments to Vehicle Registration Requirements”;
  ▶ “Cigarette Tax Exemption Amendments”;
  ▶ “Exemptions from Requirements to Deduct and Withhold an Income Tax”;
  ▶ “Income Taxation of Pass-Through Entities and Pass-Through Entity Taxpayers”;
  ▶ “Nonrefundable Higher Education Tuition Credit”;
  ▶ “Reporting of Certain Transactions Exempt from Sales and Use Taxes”;
  ▶ “Sales and Use Tax Definitions Relating to Property”;
  ▶ “Sales and Use Tax - Determining the Location of Certain Transactions”;
  ▶ “Severance Tax Amendments”;
  ▶ “Utah Transparency Advisory Board Amendments”; and
  ▶ “Withholding Tax Amendments.”

Senate Judicial Confirmation Committee
(November 8, 2008)

ACTIONS:
• Reported a favorable recommendation for:
  ▶ Ms. Christine S. Johnson, to be confirmed to the position of judge in the Fourth District Court; and
  ▶ Mr. Marvin D. Bagley, to be confirmed, to the position of judge in the Sixth District Court.

(Both Ms. Johnson and Mr. Bagley were confirmed by the Senate on November 19, 2008.)

• Reported a favorable recommendation for confirming Judge Robert K. Hilder of the Third District Court to the Court of Appeals.

(The Senate declined to confirm Judge Hilder, on a vote of 12-16-1, on November 19, 2008.)

State Water Development Commission
(October 21, 2008)

REPORTS:
• Received reports from the State Engineer regarding:
  ▶ the status of management of underground aquifers in the Beryl/Enterprise area;
  ▶ water rights negotiations with Indian tribes; and
  ▶ adjudication of water rights in Tooele County.

• Received a report from the Division of Water Resources on the Lake Powell Pipeline project.

• Received a report from the Division of Water Resources on potential Colorado River water projects and storage opportunities.
**Tax Review Commission**
(November 13, 2008)

**STUDIES:**
- Received a report regarding Utah’s oil and gas severance taxes and the effects on extraction resulting from eliminating certain tax exclusions, tax exemptions, tax credits, and the tiered rate structure.
- Studied proposed amendments to the definition of “business income” in the state’s corporate income tax code.

**ACTIONS:**
- Approved as a committee bill, “Income Taxation of Pass-Through Entities and Pass-Through Entity Taxpayers.”
- Voted to support in concept draft legislation to gradually lower and eventually eliminate the revenue thresholds above which revenue from the state’s severance taxes is deposited into the Permanent State Trust Fund.

**Chairs:** Mr. M. Keith Prescott / Mr. David J. Crapo
**Staff:** Bryant R. Howe, Phillip V. Dean & Leif G. Elder (analysts)/Rebecca L. Rockwell & Angela D. Oakes (attorneys)/Phalin L. Flowers (secretary)

---

**Utah International Trade Commission**

**ACTION:**
- Approved as a committee bill, “Resolution Urging the Withdrawal of United States World Trade Organization Commitment on Gambling.”

**Chairs:** Rep. Sheryl L. Allen / Sen. Mark B. Madsen
**Staff:** Richard C. North (analyst)/Victoria Stirling (attorney)/Tracey Fredman (secretary)

---

**Workforce Services & Community and Economic Development**

**REPORTS:**
- Received a report from the Immigration Interim Committee regarding its study of illegal immigration and the meetings it has held across the state to receive public input.
- Received a report from the Utah Community Action Partnership Association regarding community services block grant monies, how the funds are used, and how they affect poverty in Utah.

**ACTION:**
- Approved as a committee bill, “Refugee Services Fund Amendments.”

**Chairs:** Sen. Mark B. Madsen / Rep. Steven R. Mascaro
**Staff:** Arthur L. Hunsaker (analyst)/James L. Wilson (attorney)/Glenda S. Whitney (secretary)

---

**Transportation**

**STUDIES:**
- Received a presentation from the Driver License Division on concerns regarding implementation of driver license requirements provided in S.B. 81, “Illegal Immigration” (2008).
- Received a presentation from Granite Construction on safety in construction zones.
- Reviewed draft legislation that would raise fees for oversize and overweight permits for commercial motor vehicles.

**REPORTS:**
- Received a report from the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice on DUI-related data used to evaluate the impacts of DUI recidivism and processes related to DUI law enforcement.
- Received a report from the Driver License Division on compliance with the federal REAL ID Act of 2005 and on a federal grant that was awarded to the division to help pay for compliance costs.

**ACTIONS:**
- Approved as committee bills:
  - “Designation of State Highways Amendments”;
  - “Driver License Amendments - Motor Driven Cycles”;
  - “DUI Amendments”;
  - “Firefighter Special Group License Plate Amendments”;
  - “Motorcycle Rider Educator Program Amendments”;
  - “Street-Legal All-Terrain Vehicle Amendments”; and
  - “Traffic Accident Clearance Amendments.”

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

*Amendments to Agency Rulemaking Regarding Criminal Penalties

**Business and Labor**

*Enhancement of Truth in Advertising Act
*Exemption for Alcoholic Beverage Manufacturing License
*Insurance Code Amendments
*Utah Injured Worker Reemployment Act
*Utah Residential Mortgage Practices and Licensing Act
*Workers’ Compensation Premium Assessment and Workplace Safety Funding

**Government Operations**

*Ballot Question Amendments
*Coordinating Municipal and Special District Elections
*Declaration of Candidacy Amendments
*Early Voting Amendments
Election Law Changes
*Local and Special Service District Election Amendments
*Online Voter Registration
*Open and Public Meetings Act - Meeting Record
Per Diem and Travel Expenses of State Boards and Commissions
*Voter Challenge Amendments

**Health and Human Services**

*Adoption Revisions
*Expedited Partner Therapy Treatment
*Family Preservation Services Amendments
Refund of Unearned Health Insurance Premiums and Medicare Supplement Insurance Premiums
Utah Sudden Cardiac Arrest Survival Act

**Higher Education and Applied Technology and Governance Committee**

*Career and Technical Education Amendments

**Judiciary**

Condominium and Community Association Provisions
Harboring a Runaway
Material Harmful to Minors Amendments
*Wrongful Death Amendments

**Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice**

Child and Vulnerable Adult Endangerment Provisions
County Sheriff Qualification Amendments
Crime of Strangulation or Smothering
Criminal Offense Elements and Penalties
Criminal Offense Penalties Amendment
*Criminal Procedure - Investigation Amendments
*Gun Dealer Penalty Amendments
*Incest Amendments
*Prohibited Activities of Gang Offenders
*Prohibited Gang Activity
*Sex Offender Registration Amendments
Sex Offenders’ Contact With Children
*Subpoenas for Records in Certain Criminal Investigations
Violent Offenses Amendments

**Native American Legislative Liaison Committee**

*Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council Amendments

* Bills recommended at the November interim meeting
**Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment**
- Administering Substances to Wildlife
- Penalties for Destruction of Bald Eagle
- Protections for Agricultural Practices
- Recodification of Natural Resources Provisions
- Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments
- Surface Coal Mining Amendments
- Water Right Applications and Records
- Water Rights - Informal Adjudications

**Political Subdivisions**
- Assessment Area Amendments
- *Local Government Entity Changes
- *Local Public Health Emergency Funding
- *State and Local Health Authorities Amendments

**Public Utilities and Technology**
- *Utility Transmission Corridors Siting Task Force

**Revenue and Taxation**
- *Amendments to Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Certain Machinery, Equipment, or Parts
- *Amendments to Tourism, Recreation, Cultural, Convention, and Airport Facilities Tax Act
- *Amendments to Vehicle Registration Requirements
- Certified Tax Rate Amendments
- *Cigarette Tax Exemption Amendments
- *Exemptions from Requirements to Deduct and Withhold an Income Tax
- *Income Taxation of Pass-Through Entities and Pass-Through Entity Taxpayers
- *Nonrefundable Higher Education Tuition Credit
- Personal Property Tax Amendments
- Repeal of Certain Income Tax Credits and Contributions

**Tax Review Commission**
- *Income Taxation of Pass-Through Entities and Pass-Through Entity Taxpayers

**Transportation**
- Amendments to Driver License Sanction Requirements
- Commercial Motor Vehicle Amendments
- *Designation of State Highways Amendments
- *Driver License Amendments - Motor Driven Cycles
- *DUI Amendments
- *Firefighter Special Group License Plate Amendments
- *Motorcycle Rider Educator Program Amendments
- *Street Legal All-Terrain Vehicle Amendments
- *Traffic Accident Clearance Amendments

**Utah International Trade Commission**
- *Resolution Urging the Withdrawal of United States World Trade Organization Commitment on Gambling

**Workforce Services & Community and Economic Development**
- Department of Community and Culture -- State-Owned Art Inventory
- Financial Incentives for Motion Picture Productions
- *Refugee Services Fund Amendments

* Bills recommended at the November interim meeting