



INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Legislative Research
and General Counsel

Office of the Legislative
Auditor General

APRIL 2007 INTERIM COMMITTEES

Business and Labor

STUDY:

- Discussed proposed study items from the 2007 Master Study Resolution (H.J.R. 14) and other priorities for study during the interim.

REPORT:

- Received reports from five departments and one commission that are under the committee's oversight regarding their responsibilities and priority issues.

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

Education

STUDIES:

- Received presentations on:
 - ProExcel, an initiative developed by the State Board of Education to improve educator quality.
 - H.B. 381, Professional Excellence Programs, a bill introduced in the 2007 General Session to implement aspects of the ProExcel initiative.
- Received information from the State Board of Education on:
 - The process for issuing a request for proposals and contracting for a student achievement and management data system.
 - A proposed rule to implement 2007 legislation that prohibits a school district from purchasing primary instructional materials unless the materials have been evaluated by an independent party for alignment with the core curriculum.

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

Government Operations

STUDIES:

- Received a staff presentation on the committee's oversight responsibilities and bills passed during the 2007 General Session that are in the committee's subject area.
- Received a staff presentation and received comments from representatives of political parties on whether provisions allowing a voter to change party affiliation on primary election day should be allowed to sunset.

REPORT:

- The Department of Administrative Services reported on the organization, functions, and services of the department.

*Chairs: Sen. Peter C. Knudson / Rep. Glenn Donnelson
Staff: Benjamin Christensen (analyst)/Eric Weeks (attorney)/Brooke Ollerton (secretary)*

Health and Human Services

REPORTS:

- Received input from the Departments of Insurance, Human Services, and Health concerning potential interim study topics.
- Received a briefing from the Office of the Utah Attorney General on the status of federal court oversight of Utah's child welfare system.
- Reviewed the Insurance Department's annual evaluation of Utah's health insurance market.

ACTION:

- Identified interim study issues.

*Chairs: Sen. D. Chris Butters / Rep. Paul Ray
Staff: Mark Andrews (analyst)/Catherine Dupont, Thomas Vaughn (attorneys)/Joy Miller (secretary)*

Judiciary

REPORT:

- Discussed legislation to provide for a presumptive personal representative to present and resolve claims for wrongful death, liability, and uninsured motorist claims.

ACTION:

- Considered and prioritized potential study items.

*Chairs: Sen. Greg Bell / Rep. Douglas Aagard
Staff: Jerry Howe (analyst)/Esther Chelsea-McCarty (attorney)/Brooke Ollerton (secretary)*

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Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

REPORTS:

- Committee staff reported on the 2007 bills passed and appropriations made in the committee's subject areas. Staff also provided statistics from the 2007 General Session, and comparative information from recent sessions.
- Received from the Sentencing Commission and the Office of the Attorney General historical, procedural, and legal information on the death penalty, including lethal injection.

ACTION:

- Committee members provided input to the committee chairs on priority preferences for interim study.

*Chairs: Sen. Jon Greiner / Rep. DeMar "Bud" Bowman
Staff: Stewart E. Smith (analyst)/Susan Creager Allred (attorney)
Wendy Bangerter (secretary)*

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

STUDIES:

- Considered information provided by the state engineer regarding several water forfeiture issues.
- Discussed potential interim studies and reports.

REPORTS:

- Received a report from the Department of Natural Resources and the state engineer on the status of the proposal to divide the Snake Valley Aquifer with Nevada.
- Received the Department of Agriculture and Food report on efforts to eradicate the Japanese beetle in Utah County.

*Chairs: Sen. Darin Peterson / Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Staff: Brian Allred (analyst)/Emily R. Brown (attorney)/Joy Miller (secretary)*

Political Subdivisions

STUDIES:

- Received an overview of political subdivisions, including counties, municipalities, local districts, special service districts, community development renewal agencies, and entities created by interlocal agreements.
- Reviewed whether the provisions of Subsection 17B-1-302(1) in H.B. 65, "Special and Local Districts Amendments," (2007 General Session) should be amended regarding the qualifications of the board of trustee members of a local district if it contains a significant number of seasonally occupied homes.
- Discussed the possibility of placing local districts and municipalities on the same election ballot.

ACTION:

- Voted to reestablish the Special Districts Subcommittee to complete the rewrite of Title 17A, Local Government Controlled Districts.

*Chairs: Sen. Dennis Stowell / Rep. Fred Hunsaker
Staff: Joseph Wade (analyst)/Robert Rees (attorney)/Wendy Bangerter (secretary)*

Public Utilities and Technology

STUDIES:

- Discussed existing state and federal laws regarding child and adult pornography, and the delivery of pornography via the Internet.
- Received suggestions from interested parties for legislation regulating wireless broadcasts and Internet service provider recordkeeping.

*Chairs: Sen. Scott K. Jenkins / Rep. Michael Noel
Staff: Richard North (analyst)/Christopher Parker (attorney)/Tracey Fredman (secretary)*

Revenue and Taxation

STUDIES:

- Reviewed a process to draft legislation to repeal the state individual income tax formula based on graduated brackets and rates.
- Reviewed a proposal to change the formula for apportionment of taxable income under the state corporate income tax.
- Reviewed the distribution formula for the local option sales and use tax.
- Reviewed the taxes and fees imposed on aircraft located in the state.

REPORTS:

- Received a report on electronic filing and remittance of taxes and fees collected by the Utah State Tax Commission.
- Received a report on recent trends in state tax revenue collections. The Utah State Tax Commission estimates that actual revenue collections for fiscal year 2007 will exceed targeted revenues.

*Chairs: Sen. Wayne Niederhauser / Rep. John Dougall
Staff: Bryant Howe, Phillip Dean, & Leif Elder (analysts)/Rebecca Rockwell & Angela D. Oakes (attorneys) Phalin Flowers (secretary)*

Transportation

STUDIES:

- Discussed the history and purpose of metropolitan planning organizations.
- Studied the federal REAL ID Act of 2005 and its potential impact on the Utah's driver license and identification card programs.

REPORT:

- Received a report from the state's four metropolitan planning organizations regarding their coverage areas and long-range transportation plans.

*Chairs: Sen. Carlene Walker / Rep. Todd Kiser
Staff: Mark Steinagel (analyst)/Shannon Halverson (attorney)
Tracey Fredman (secretary)*

Workforce Services & Community and Economic Development

REPORTS:

- Received a report from committee staff regarding legislation passed during the 2007 General Session that is related to the committee's subject area.
- Received reports from the Department of Community and Culture, the Governor's Office of Economic Development, and the Department of Workforce Services, including discussions of agency duties and recommendations for interim study.

ACTIONS:

- Directed staff to open a 2008 General Session bill file for S.B. 249, Economic Development Incentives Modifications, which did not pass in the 2007 General Session.
- Approved study items for the 2007 interim.

*Chairs: Sen. Mark B. Madsen / Rep. Steven Mascaro
Staff: Art Hunsaker (analyst)/Jim Wilson (attorney)/Glenda Whitney (secretary)*

2007 TASK FORCE INFORMATION

Task Forces Enacted – 2007 General Session

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

Ongoing Task Forces

Medicaid Interim Committee
Rules Committee Recodification
State Water Development Commission
Utah International Trade Commission

Task Forces Discontinued or Repealed

Charter Schools Study
Privately Owned Health Care Organization Task Force
Water Issues Task Force

APPROVED AUDITS

Provided by Office of the Legislative Auditor General

Audits in Process	Estimated Release Date
In-Depth Follow-up of SITLA	May 2007
Uniform Mgmt of Institutional Funds Act	May 2007
Education Costs for Undocumented Children	May 2007
Court Surcharge Account/Bail	June 2007
Turnover Savings in Education	June 2007
Underground Fuel Storage Tank Fund	June 2007
School Districts/Accounting Controls	July 2007
Class Size Reduction	August 2007
Utah Transit Authority	Sept. 2007

**Approved Audits
in Priority Order**

**Date
Approved**

Davis Behavior Health	March 2007
Coal & Mining Regulatory Program	January 2007
Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarship	March 2007
Jail Contracting	February 2007
Committee of Consumer Services	February 2007
State Mental Hospital	March 2007
School Building Construction	December 2005

Site Visit

*Salt Lake &
Davis Counties*

*Thursday, August 16
Friday, August 17*



LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ACTIONS:

Changed the dates for the Legislative visit to the Liaoning Province of China to July 7-15, 2007 from June 30-July 7, 2007, and increased the size of the delegation from six to seven legislators per house.

Approved the study items requested, without change, from the following committees:

- Transportation Interim Committee
- Government Operations Interim Committee
- Political Subdivisions Interim Committee
- Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee
- Government Competition and Privatization Subcommittee
- Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee
- Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee
- Workforce Services & Community and Economic Development Interim Committee
- Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee

Approved the request by Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee for its proposed site visit to the Public Safety Training Center, the Bureau of Criminal Identification, and the Department of Public Safety.

Approved the requested study items for the Education Interim Committee and added a study item addressing classroom size and its effect on teaching and learning.

Approved the requested study items for the Business and Labor Interim Committee and added Study Item 23, Master Study Resolution (H.J.R. 14), addressing construction industry pay practices using cash.

Increased the membership of the Government Competition and Privatization Subcommittee from eight to nine by adding one Republican senator.

Postponed to the May meeting the study items requested from the Capital Facilities and Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee so a new House chair may be appointed to fill the position of Representative Buxton, who has resigned.

Next Interim Day – May 16th

*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.le.utah.gov.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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