Business and Labor

STUDIES:
- Heard recent research concerning Utah’s high bankruptcy rate and the need for Utahns to increase their savings.
- Received an update from the Governor’s Working Group on Minimum Wage and heard public testimony regarding Utah’s minimum wage.
- Studied amending the “Condominium Ownership Act” to allow homeowner associations to limit the number of renters in condominium units.

REPORT:
- Received comments and a committee staff report on the recent Utah Supreme Court case Workers’ Compensation Fund v. State of Utah, that addressed the state’s relationship to the fund.

ACTION:
- Recommended that the Motor Fuel Marketing Act be reauthorized with a sunset date of July 1, 2011.

Government Operations

ACTIONS:
- Approved as committee bills:
  - “Open and Public Meetings Act Revisions,” which recodifies, amends, and updates the act;
  - “Open Meetings Law Amendments,” which requires all closed meetings to be recorded;
  - “Revisions to Open and Public Meetings Law,” which requires all open meetings to have both a recording and minutes;
  - “Electronic Meeting Amendments,” which requires a public body to adopt rules governing the use of electronic meetings;
  - “Common Polling Places Amendments,” which repeals the 4,000 active voter limit on polling place size and increases voting precinct size from 1,000 to 2,000 active voters;
  - “Early Voting,” which allows voting 14 days prior to election day;
  - “Provisional Ballot Amendments,” which addresses voter identity provisions and the use of a provisional ballot; and

Education

STUDY:
- Received presentations on innovative practices of charter schools, including presentations from City Academy, Fast Forward High School, East Hollywood High School, the Academy for Math, Engineering and Science, and Timpanogos Academy.

REPORTS:
- Received a report on the Utah School Districts Symposium on School Facilities.

Received annual reports mandated by statute regarding:
- 1) the State School Fund;
- 2) the Utah College of Applied Technology;
- 3) Applied Technology Education for Secondary Students; and

(Continued next column)
Health and Human Services

STUDIES:
- Reviewed strategies adopted in Utah and other states for containing Medicaid pharmaceutical spending. Also studied other states’ efforts to aggregate the purchasing of pharmaceuticals by publicly funded entities.
- Received draft legislation, “Resolution Supporting Medicaid Preferred Drug List for Acid Reflux and Statins.”
- The Department of Health, the Utah Dental Association, the Utah Medical Association, and the Utah Hospitals and Health Systems Association commented on issues related to Medicaid provider reimbursement.
- The Utah Department of Health and Utah Issues commented regarding Medicaid issues anticipated during the 2006 General Session.
- Reviewed draft legislation, “Adoption and Vital Statistics Amendments,” that would modify the disclosure of adoption records.

Judiciary

REPORTS:
- The CCJJ (Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice) presented the annual DUI report.
- The Department of Corrections and the CCJJ reported on sex offender treatment.

ACTIONS:
- Adopted draft legislation, “Child Protection Amendments,” as a committee bill.
- Conducted a sunset review on pleas in abeyance for DUI violations. The committee then voted to extend the sunset date to July 1, 2008.

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

REPORT:
- The Department of Natural Resources reported on funds expended for species protection.

ACTION:
- Considered draft legislation, “County Option Sales and Use Tax for Agricultural Land and Open Land,” that would allow qualifying counties to impose a county option sales and use tax, that would be used to protect agricultural and open land.

Political Subdivisions

STUDIES:
- The Automated Geographic Reference Center briefed the committee on the implementation of several bills related to the Geographic Information System.
- Representatives of Utah’s seven AOGs (Associations of Governments) explained the concepts of proposed legislation that would place the AOGs in statute.
- Considered a proposal to require the courts to award costs and reasonable attorney’s fees to a property owner in an eminent domain action if the compensation and damages award exceeds the highest offer by more than ten percent.

Public Utilities and Technology

REPORT:
- Received a report from the Energy Policy Working Group regarding the creation of a state energy policy in four areas: energy development; transmission; conservation; and governmental organizations.
- The Department of Environmental Quality, Utah Geologic Survey, and the Division of Facilities Construction and Management reported as required by statute regarding the integration of energy functions following the 2005 dissolution of the Utah Energy Office.
- Received the Natural Resource Economic Cluster Report.

ACTION:

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

STUDY:
- The Department of Corrections presented information on privatization of certain aspects of corrections and treatment. The committee discussed related issues.

REPORTS:
- The Dispatch Services Subcommittee presented a report on visits to Weber, Davis, and Salt Lake dispatch centers.

(Continued next column)
Revenue and Taxation

REPORTS:
- The Tax Reform Task Force reported its recommendations regarding income, sales and use, property, and other taxes.
- The Utah State Tax Commission reported on proposed legislation to prevent abusive tax avoidance practices and to impose penalties for failing to file certain tax returns.

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

Transportation

STUDY:
- Reviewed proposed Transportation Commission rules regarding a prioritization process for new transportation capacity projects.

REPORTS:
- The CCJJ (Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice) reported on the use of pleas in abeyance involving DUI violations.
- The CCJJ reported on DUI-related collection and maintenance of data by the courts to allow sentencing and penalty enhancement decisions for repeat DUI offenders.

ACTIONS:
- Requested draft legislation to extend the sunset date for statutory restrictions on pleas to DUI violations.
- Requested draft legislation to amend provisions regarding the use of ignition interlock devices.

Approved as committee bills the draft legislation:
- “Commercial Driver License Amendments,”
- “Identification Card Expiration Amendments,” and
- “Commercial Driver Training School Act Amendments.”

Staff: Mark Steinagel (analyst)/Shannon Halverson (attorney)/Tracey Fredman (secretary)

Joint Meeting of the Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee and the Natural Resources, Agricultural, and Energy Interim Committee

STUDY:
- The Energy Policy Working Group reported regarding the creation of a state energy policy in four areas: energy development; transmission; conservation; and governmental organizations.

ACTION:
- The committees discussed the report and determined how they would proceed in reaching decisions.

Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee
Staff: Richard North (analyst)/Christopher Parker (attorney)/Phalin Flowers (secretary)

Natural Resources, Agricultural, and Energy Interim Committee
Staff: Brian Allred (analyst)/John Fellows & Emily Brown (attorneys)/Joy Miller (secretary)

Workforce Services & Community and Economic Development

REPORTS:
Received the following reports:
- Use of the Southeastern Utah Small Business Development Fund;
- Development zones and the granting of partial rebates of new state revenues, as required by U.C.A. Section 63-38f-1706;
- Providing low and moderate income housing and assistance provided to local governments, as required by U.C.A. Section 9-4-1204;

(Continued next column)
Utah’s official web portal, Utah.gov, is the best state government Web site in the nation. In Brown University’s sixth annual study of state and federal eGovernment performance, www.Utah.gov earned the highest ranking in the country, up from third place last year.

Researchers at Brown University’s Taubman Center for Public Policy evaluated over 1500 state sites, including federal and state Web sites, against a broad range of criteria related to government functions and constituent services. “Utah.gov is extremely easy to navigate with the most popular online services front and center on the homepage,” said Darrell M. West, director of Brown University’s Taubman Center for Public Policy and American Institutions and the author of the study. “And with a link in the header to the online services menu as well as around-the-clock customer service, finding the information you need can be quick and easy.”

Additionally, the Brown study notes, Utah.gov offers up-to-the-minute government news, alerts, traffic, and weather. Links to Utah’s privacy and accessibility policies can be found at the bottom of every page. Utah.gov was also ranked first in the nation in the Center for Digital Government’s 2003 Best of the Web competition. In 2004 alone, Utah.gov processed 2.4 million transactions and experienced over 17 million visits. (Information from www.Brown.edu and www.TMCnet.com)
Executive Appropriations Committee
Co-Chairs:
Senator Lyle Hillyard - Representative Ron Bigelow

Report: Federal Funds
Summary: Sophia DiCaro, Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget, presented the list of federal fund grant applications since the last EAC meeting. The listing shows two new applications and five reapplications that require action by the EAC, seven applications that have been approved by the Governor, and the tracking of over three hundred outstanding federal fund grants.

Committee Action: The committee approved seven applications to continue through the application process.

Staff Contact: Juliette Tennert

Summary: The Utah Science, Technology and Research (USTAR) Economic Development Initiative is an effort to join the Utah business community and the State's research universities. The Legislature appropriated $4 million in ongoing General Funds to fund research teams and a supplemental appropriation of $3.35 million for equipment and supplies. The FY 2007 proposal requests ongoing funding that includes: $25 million for additional research teams, $3 million for business innovation outreach centers, and $3 million for a commercialization project. An additional $250 million in one-time revenue is requested for four buildings. The state funding is expected to result in significant new outside grant funding, new companies, new jobs, and new tax revenues. It was noted that these results will not be immediate, but will grow significantly over time.

Committee Action: The committee approved a motion requiring semi-annual reporting from USTAR. The LFA and GOPB should develop a format for the report, which should include performance and accountability indicators reflecting key outcomes.

Staff Contacts: Spencer Pratt & Andrea Wilko

New LFA Staff
We welcome two additions to our fiscal analyst staff -
• Derek Byrne - previously worked for the Legislative Auditor General. Derek will join Gary Ricks as staff support to the Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriation Subcommittee.
• Juliette Tennert - recently completed graduate work in economics. Juliette’s work will focus on state-wide economic analysis with Dr. Andrea Wilko. She will also track federal funds and the state retirement system.
**EAC Continued**

**Report:** Legislative Process Committee Report

**Summary:** Representative Ron Bigelow proposed a change to joint legislative rules that would require the Executive Appropriations Committee to receive and approve a base budget in December prior to each annual General Session. The change, contained in a draft joint resolution, defines base budget as all ongoing appropriations from the previous year plus any changes approved by the Executive Appropriations Committee. It also requires the Legislature to receive a base budget bill on the first day of the General Session and to approve or defeat the bill by the 10th day.

**Committee Action:** The Committee adopted this proposal.

**Staff Contacts:** John Massey & Jonathan Ball

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- **Commerce and Revenue - October 27, 2005**
  - 8:30 Workforce Services in American Fork
    - (Contact Stan Eckersley)
- **Higher Education - November 10, 2005**
  - Proposed Meeting
    - (Contact Spencer Pratt)
  - **Please Note the Date Change**
- **Public Education - November 16, 2005**
  - 8:00 - State Capitol Complex
    - (Contact Ben Leishman)
  - **Please Note the Early Start Time**
- **Health and Human Services - December 6, 2005**
  - Proposed Meeting
    - (Contact Debbie Headen or Bill Greer)

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**SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMARIES**

**Higher Education**

Co-Chairs: Senator Gregory Bell & Representative Kory Holdaway

**Summary:** The subcommittee met on September 22, 2005 at Salt Lake Community College and discussed methods to improve the success of students in higher education. This involves several different approaches and includes public education through increased graduation requirements in math, English, science and social studies. Transition strategies need to be developed to increase student success.

Institutions are making efforts to increase student retention and graduation rates through advising and other activities outside of the classroom. Concurrent Enrollment has grown significantly over the past decade, but funding has remained at FY 1990 levels. This requires additional institutional support.

A presentation was made showing future enrollment projections and demographics. A discussion of funding future enrollment growth followed. The history of funding over the past several years shows a shift toward a greater portion of the total cost being paid by tuition.

The subcommittee also received a report on Uniform Data Collection, which is a statewide system to track student progress through public and higher education. A K-16 system provides the coordination and articulation to improve the entire educational system.

**Staff Contact:** Spencer Pratt

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**Natural Resources**

Co-Chairs: Senator Thomas Hatch & Representative Bradley Johnson

**Summary:** The subcommittee participated in a field trip to central Utah on September 28-29, 2005. On the first day the committee members visited the fish hatcheries in Springville and Fountain Green, the Agriculture Diagnostic Lab in Nephi, discussed watershed conservation projects and Noxious Weed issues in Fairview Utah, and visited Pulisade State Park.

During the second day the committee members visited the Great Basin Research Seed Facility in Ephraim, observed range improvement projects west of Ephraim, toured a watershed area near Scipio, stopped at Yuba State Park and made a short visit to Kuhni Rendering Plant near Mills.

During the two-day trip the legislators met with representatives of the community, businesses, and state agencies to discuss budget and policy issues.

**Staff Contact:** Ivan Djambov

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**Public Education**

Co-Chairs: Senator Howard Stephenson & Representative Gordon Snow

**Summary:** The subcommittee met on September 29, 2005, which included a joint meeting with the State Board of Education and Education Interim Committee in an afternoon session.

In its morning session, the subcommittee discussed charter school funding priorities and new formula proposals for CS Administration and CS Local Replacement Funding. The subcommittee heard a presentation on a performance review of the Fine Arts and Sciences program. The Utah Foreign Exchange Student Association provided information on the status of foreign exchange students in Utah schools since state funding was eliminated. The subcommittee will follow up on the Fine Arts and Sciences performance review and Foreign Exchange funding restoration in its November meeting.

**Staff Contacts:** Michael Kjar & Ben Leishman

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**Executive Offices and Criminal Justice**

Co-Chairs: Senator David Thomas & Representative David Hogue

**Summary:** The subcommittee met on October 18th at the West Jordan Courthouse and heard the following reports: Crime Victims Reparation Trust Fund and Crime Victims Reparations; Jail Contracting and Jail Reimbursement Study Update; Rape in Utah; and, Youth Providers Association.

The committee toured the new West Jordan Courthouse. It is anticipated that the functional design of this courthouse will serve as a model for future courthouses in the state.

**Staff Contacts:** Gary Ricks & Derek Byrne

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*Full Reports Available Online At: [http://www.le.utah.gov/lfa/](http://www.le.utah.gov/lfa/)*