



INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Legislative Research
and General Counsel

Office of the Legislative
Fiscal Analyst

Office of the Legislative
Auditor General

INTERIM COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Business and Labor

STUDIES:

- Discussed potential study items for the 2003 Interim.
- Received information from the Departments of Commerce, Financial Institutions, and Insurance and the Labor Commission regarding priority issues and potential legislation for the 2003 Interim and 2004 General Session.

*Chairs: Sen. Parley Hellewell/Rep. Katherine M. Bryson
Staff: Mary Catherine Perry (analyst)/Patricia Owen (attorney)/Sandra Wissa (secretary)*

Education

STUDY: Reviewed potential study items and requested committee members to indicate their study priorities.

ACTION: Authorized the House Chair to form a committee to issue a request for proposals on research topics identified in S.B. 154, "Public Education Amendments."

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

Government Operations

REPORTS:

- Received a report on the Utah State Plan on Election Reform.
- Received a report on the State's regulation of radioactive materials and financial guaranties to ensure the State is able to manage and secure waste sites after closure.

*Chairs: Sen. John W. Hickman/Rep. James A. Ferrin
Staff: John Cannon (analyst)/John Fellows (attorney)/Cassandra Bauman (secretary)*

IN THIS ISSUE:

Pages 1-2: Interim Committee Actions

Page 3: Schedule of Legislative Audits

Page 4: Legislative Management Committee

Health and Human Services

STUDIES:

- Received reports from representatives of hospitals, doctors, long-term care facilities, and the University of Utah Health Sciences Center on what is needed to ensure the success of Utah's health care system. The Committee decided to study some of the issues identified in the reports, including the uninsured, during the Interim.
- Discussed potential interim study topics.

ACTION: Moved to study several health insurance mandates this Interim, including the adoption indemnity benefit and coverage of diabetes education, mental health, dependents through age 26, and dietary products for inborn metabolic errors.

*Chairs: Sen. David H. Steele/Rep. Mike Thompson
Staff: Mark Andrews (analyst)/Catherine Dupont, Stacey Snyder (attorneys)/Joy Miller (secretary)*

Judiciary

REPORT: Received a report regarding some of the deficiencies and inconsistencies within the current Interstate Compact on Juveniles and discussed the merit of adopting a new Interstate Compact on Juveniles.

ACTION: Authorized the chairs to draft a letter to the Legislative Management Committee requesting permission to establish a subcommittee to study issues related to divorce and requested that the State Bar establish a working group to study divorce issues.

*Chairs: Sen. David L. Gladwell/Rep. Ben C. Ferry
Staff: Jerry Howe (analyst)/Esther Chelsea-McCarty (attorney)/Cassandra Bauman (secretary)*

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

ACTION: Voted to prioritize the following seven study items for the 2003 Interim: Drug Treatment, Victim Reparation Process, Education and Illegal Drugs in Prison Reform, Statewide E-911 Emergency Services, Theft Prevention, Access to Juvenile Records, and Meth Lab Disclosure. The committee chair indicated that the first five study items will be given priority, and the last two will be studied as time allows.

*Chairs: Sen. D. Chris Buttars/Rep. DeMar "Bud" Bowman
Staff: Chyleen Arbon (analyst)/Susan Creager Allred (attorney)/Tracey Fredman (secretary)*

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

STUDY: Received a report from the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAF) on the detection of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a buck mule deer near Vernal. DAF discussed efforts to monitor and control the spread of CWD in Utah.

REPORT: Received a report from the Natural Resources Conservation Service on current precipitation, snowpack, and runoff conditions in Utah. The Division of Water Resources discussed water conservation plans, and the Department of Agriculture and Food discussed agricultural impacts of the drought.

*Chairs: Sen. Beverly Evans/Rep. Craig W. Buttars
Staff: Brian Allred (analyst)/Jeanenne Larson (attorney)/Joy Miller (secretary)*

Political Subdivisions

STUDIES:

- Received an overview of political subdivisions.
- Received information on eminent domain issues outlined by the State Private Property Ombudsman.

ACTION: Voted to request permission of the Legislative Management Committee to recreate the Special Districts Subcommittee to continue the rewrite of Title 17A, Special Districts.

*Chairs: Sen. Carlene M. Walker/Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Staff: Joseph Wade (analyst)/Robert Rees (attorney)/Wendy Bangerter (secretary)*

Public Utilities and Technology

STUDIES:

- Held a public hearing to discuss the issue of how Public Service Commissions are organized and whether commissioners should be appointed or elected.
- Received a report on potential study items assigned by the Legislative Management Committee. The assigned items were prioritized by committee members for use by the chairs in setting this year's interim agendas.

REPORT: Received a report on utility and technology legislation that was considered in the 2003 General Session.

*Chairs: Sen. Leonard M. Blackham/Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart
Staff: Richard North (analyst)/Thad LeVar (attorney)/Jennifer Markham (secretary)*

Revenue and Taxation

STUDY: Received an overview of the Streamlined Sales Tax Project. The Committee was informed that five states, in addition to Utah, have enacted legislation that conforms to the Streamlined Sales Tax Project model agreement. An outline of study requirements related to this topic was also presented.

REPORTS:

- Received a report from the Utah State Tax Commission on tax collection trends for the first three quarters of fiscal year 2002-2003. Combined General Fund and Uniform School Fund collections are approximately \$20 million above the consensus forecast. However, final individual income tax payments are still being processed and final collections may be closer to the forecast.
- Received a report on the organization, duties, and functions of the Utah State Tax Commission and toured its operations.

*Chairs: Sen. Curtis S. Bramble/Rep. Wayne A. Harper
Staff: Bryant Howe (analyst)/Rebecca Rockwell (attorney)/Sandra Wissa (secretary)*

Transportation

STUDIES:

- Received an update on the Centennial Highway Fund Program and the State Transportation Improvement Program. The originally planned funding for the ten-year Centennial Highway Fund Program has been reduced by \$581 million over the life of the program.
- Received a presentation on the advantages and disadvantages of studded snow tires on highways.
- Received a presentation indicating that federal approval is required for Utah to allow a person to purchase a permit to use the HOV lanes in Utah. Current Utah provisions allowing clean fueled vehicles in the HOV lanes may have to be reconciled with federal law which allows inherently low-emissions vehicles in the HOV lanes.

*Chairs: Sen. Dan R. Eastman/Rep. Joseph G. Murray
Staff: Benjamin Christensen (analyst)/Shannon Halverson (attorney)/Jennifer Markham (secretary)*

Workforce Services & Community and Economic Development

STUDY: Reviewed study items from the Master Study Resolution and discussed priorities for the 2003 Interim.

REPORTS:

- Received a report regarding action on legislation related to the Committee during the 2003 General Session.
- Received reports from the Department of Workforce Services and the Department of Community and Economic Development regarding departmental responsibilities and emerging issues for the 2003 Interim.
- Received an update from the Department of Workforce Services on the status and progress of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) reauthorization.

*Chairs: Sen. Scott K. Jenkins/Rep. David N. Cox
Staff: Jami Momberger (analyst)/Jim Wilson (attorney)/Glenda Whitney (secretary)*

SCHEDULE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS

Office of the Legislative Auditor General

Reports Recently Released

Audit Name	Date Released
Possible Conflicts of Interest at Retirement Office	February 2003
UTAX Project	February 2003
University Hospital Fund Balances	February 2003

If you would like a full copy of these recently released reports, please call (801) 538-1033, or visit our website at: <http://www.le.state.ut.us/audit/olag.htm>.

Current Audits

Audits in Process	Estimated Completion Date*
Investment Practices of the Retirement Systems	April 22, 2003
High School Activities Association	April 2003
Tax Commission Waivers	April 2003
Tax Commission Collections	May 2003
Division of Information Technology	May 2003
Local Mental Health System	May 2003
Public Employees Health Plan	June 2003
Judicial Conduct Commission	August 2003
Administrative Office of Courts	October 2003
Schools of Deaf and Blind	November 2003
Textbook Monitoring	November 2003

*The audit completion date is only tentative and may change based on the conditions found by the audit teams.

Future Audits

New Audits Approved
University of Utah Medical School Follow-up
Motor Vehicles Division
Property Tax Exemptions
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Grants
Use of Technology in Education
Weber/Davis Canal Company
Utah Performance Assessment System for Students (UPASS)
School Closure Procedures
Legacy Highway
Decentralization of State Office of Education

The Legislative Audit Subcommittee has approved the audits listed above which will be assigned as staff become available.

LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

REPORTS:

- Received a statistical report about the 2003 General Session, showing the number of bills and resolutions introduced and passed and the number of Internet hits accessing the live broadcasts of the floor debates of both houses.
- Received a report from the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst that the legislative budget is sufficient to provide for 10 interim meetings and if occasion arises, two special session days, two meetings of the appropriation subcommittees, and up to 10 meetings of the Executive Appropriations and Legislative Management committees.

ACTIONS:

- Moved that the audit by the Office of the Legislative Auditor General of Utah Schools of Deaf and Blind be completed and presented to the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee by the end of November 2003.
- Approved the settlement agreement *Nelson Trucking v. State of Utah - University of Utah Student Housing/Olympic Village Project* proposed by the Division of Facilities Construction and Management.
- Approved sending the study items in the Master Study Resolution as recommended by staff to the Interim Committees as amended by Legislative Management Committee.

- Approved sending H.C.R. 4, "Resolution Urging Federal and State Action Against Internet Abuses," to the Information Technology Commission.
- Approved assigning S.B. 71, "Rollback Tax and One-time in Lieu Fee Amendments," and S.B. 243, "Tourism - Economic Stimulus Package," to the Business and Labor Interim Committee.
- Approved Legislative Management Committee policies as amended by Legislative Management Committee.
- Approved the assignment of Sunset Reviews to the Interim Committees as recommended by staff and amended by Legislative Management Committee.
- Approved the 2003 Legislative Management Committee, Executive Appropriations Committee, and Interim Committees meeting schedules.
- Agreed that no regional tours would take place this Interim due to budget constraints.
- Moved to rescind the request by Legislative Management Committee to have the Constitutional Revision Commission reexamine and make recommendations regarding the *Gallivan v. Walker* case because the passage of S.B. 28, "Initiative Amendments," changes Utah's initiative process.
- Approved a study by the Legislative Process Committee to examine standardizing the receiving of public testimony to provide for greater fairness between proponents and opponents of legislation.



Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

436 State Capitol • Salt Lake City, UT • 84114
(801) 538-1032

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst

425 State Capitol • Salt Lake City, UT • 84114
(801) 538-1034

Office of the Legislative Auditor General

130 State Capitol • Salt Lake City, UT • 84114
(801) 538-1033

For more information about legislative activities, contact one of the legislative offices or access our website at: www.le.utah.gov

Editors: Chyleen A. Arbon and Mary Catherine Perry