



INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel
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LEGISLATIVE INTERIM MEETINGS

Meetings were held June 18, 2014, or as noted.

IN THIS ISSUE:

(Click on the committee you would like to view)

- Administrative Rules Review Committee
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- Health Reform Task Force
- Judiciary
- Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice
- Legislative Management Committee
- Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment
- Political Subdivisions
- Prison Relocation Commission
- Public Utilities and Technology
- Revenue and Taxation
- Senate Judicial Confirmation Committee
- Transportation
- Veterans' and Military Affairs Commission

Administrative Rules Review Committee

June 16, 2014

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Permit Review Practices

Discussed the need for the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to revise its administrative rules to reflect current permitting practices so that the public may receive notice of the proposed changes and have the opportunity to provide input.

Governance Issues Related to Safety and Emissions Inspections

Received a report from committee staff regarding vehicle safety and emissions inspection processes and the roles

of state agencies and county governments in these processes.

The committee also received a [presentation](#) from county governments regarding their emission inspection responsibilities.

Chairs: Rep. Curtis Oda / Sen. Howard A. Stephenson

Staff: Art L. Hunsaker (Policy Analyst) / Christine R. Gilbert (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Secretary)

Business and Labor

Regulation of Title and Escrow Industry

Received information regarding various aspects of the escrow services and title insurance industry. The committee discussed the duties and powers of the Title and Escrow Commission.

Action: Directed committee staff to open a committee bill file to address regulation of the title and escrow industry.

Sunset Review — Auto and Homeowners

Insurance Rates Comparison Tables

Received information from the Department of Insurance regarding the insurance rate comparison tables for homeowners and automobile insurance published by the department as required by [Utah Code Section 31A-2-208.5](#). The tables compare rates, number of complaints filed regarding an insurance company, and national combined loss and expense ratios for the top twenty insurance companies for both types of insurance. The department recommended removing this code section from the Sunset Act.

Action: Directed staff to open a committee bill file to repeal Utah Code Section 31A-2-208.5 from the Sunset Act.

Sunset Review — Comprehensive Health

Insurance Pool

Received information regarding the phase out and eventual closure of enrollment, membership, and administrative functions associated with the Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool. The committee took no action regarding the sunset date of June 30, 2015.

Chairs: Rep. James A. Dunnigan / Sen. Curtis S. Bramble

Staff: Bryant R. Howe (Assistant Director) / Christine R. Gilbert (Attorney) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Kristen C. Ricks (Secretary)

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Commission on Federalism

June 3, 2014

Article V Convention

Received a report from a commission member regarding a meeting of the Mount Vernon Assembly that was held in December 2013. The objective of the meeting was to establish a bipartisan procedure for calling a convention of the states to consider proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

Case Law Review

Received a report from the Office of the Attorney General regarding recent US Supreme Court cases that potentially impact federalism. The commission discussed current cases regarding public lands issues and marriage.

Continuing Education on Federalism

Discussed the provisions of 2014 General Session [H.B. 120](#), "[Continuing Education on Federalism](#)," which requires the Commission on Federalism to develop a curriculum for continuing education on federalism. The commission discussed organizing a work group to develop a request for proposals that would seek outside help to develop the curriculum.

Chairs: Speaker Rebecca D. Lockhart / President Wayne L. Niederhauser

Staff: Jerry D. Howe (Managing Policy Analyst) / Nathan W. Brady (Policy Analyst) / Robert H. Rees (Attorney) / Cathy J. Dupont (Attorney) / Sara J. Thomas (Secretary)

Economic Development and Workforce Services

Abusive Workplace Conduct

Received presentations from a legislator, a university professor, and victims regarding abusive workplace conduct. Abusive workplace conduct is malicious, repeated, health-harming mistreatment that can include verbal abuse, threats, humiliation, intimidation, work sabotage, exploitation of a known vulnerability, or retaliation for ethical conduct. The committee also received information from the presenters about the prevalence and effect of abusive work environments.

Affordable Housing

Received presentations from committee staff, the Housing and Community Development Division of the Utah Housing Corporation, and Envision Utah on current programs that address affordable housing issues and future needs. Current projections indicate that the Wasatch Front population will increase by nearly one million people in the next 15 to 20 years. New housing will be needed for the working middle class, as well as the working poor.

Department of Workforce Services Assistance Program

Received a [report](#) from committee staff on assistance programs administered by the Department of Workforce Services. The department administers or determines eligibility for 24 public assistance programs, including Unemployment Insurance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Medicaid Eligibility.

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The report briefly describes each program, including its purpose, eligibility requirements, benefit amounts and restrictions, administrative contact information, and statutory citations. The committee also received information from the department on the operation of the assistance programs, including achievements, challenges, and long-term issues.

Chairs: Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards / Sen. Aaron Osmond

Staff: Benjamin N. Christensen (Policy Analyst) / Peter Asplund (Attorney) / Debra Hale (Secretary)

Education

Impact of Corrections Education on Recidivism

Received a report from the Utah Department of Corrections on the impact of education programs for inmates on recidivism. The department reported that 162 offenders were paroled and also received a certification from an applied technology college between January 1, 2010, and June 30, 2013. The department's initial findings indicate lower recidivism for those who received an applied technology certificate.

Educators' Perspectives on Student Achievement

Convened a panel of teachers to describe their challenges, the elements that contribute to high student achievement, and what the Legislature can do to promote student learning.

Presenters' written comments can be found [here](#).

Chairs: Rep. Francis D. Gibson / Sen. Stuart C. Reid

Staff: Constance C. Steffen (Policy Analyst) / Tiffany A. Stanley (Policy Analyst) / Angela Oakes Stallings (Attorney) / Debra Hale (Secretary)

Education Task Force

May 27, 2014

Governing Structure of Education

*A legislator discussed education governance, including a proposal to amend the Utah Constitution to give the governor the authority to approve the State Board of Education's appointment of a state superintendent of public instruction and additional power to remove or "fire" the superintendent. The legislator discussed the benefits and challenges related to the proposal.

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*This text was revised on 6/24/14 to more accurately characterize the proposal presented at the meeting.



Higher Education and the Utah College of Applied Technology

Discussed various issues and proposals related to higher education and the Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT), including:

- Performance-based funding for higher education;
- How to ensure students have adequate information when making decisions regarding higher education;
- The governance structure of UCAT; and
- Inequities in the funding of UCAT.

Elements of Student Achievement

Reviewed "Key Elements Contributing to Student Achievement," which was included in the Education Task Force's [2013 Final Report](#).

One-to-One Mobile Devices in Schools

Received a presentation from task force members on the implementation of a statewide one-to-one mobile device initiative for public schools. The task force discussed the opportunities and challenges related to implementing the initiative.

Review of 2014 General Session Education Bills

Received a presentation from task force staff on the bills that passed in the 2014 General Session, which addressed recommendations found in the task force's 2013 Final Report.

Task Force Overview and Duties

Received a presentation from task force staff on the goals and strategies adopted by the task force in its 2013 Final Report and the duties of the task force as outlined in [2014 General Session S.B. 150, "Education Task Force Reauthorization."](#)

*Chairs: Speaker Rebecca D. Lockhart / President Wayne L. Niederhauser
Staff: Constance C. Steffen (Policy Analyst) / Tiffany A. Stanley (Policy Analyst) / Angela Oakes Stallings (Attorney) / Debra Hale (Secretary)*

Government Operations

Attorney General's Secondary Employment Policies

Received information from the Office of the Attorney General on its policies concerning outside employment of the office's employees.

Campaign Contribution Reform

Received a presentation from committee staff and from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on the House Special Investigative Committee's recommendation to consider enacting legislation concerning major donors.

Received information from committee staff and from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on anonymous campaign contributions. The committee discussed whether legislative changes are needed with regard to anonymous campaign contributions and what changes may be appropriate.

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Grand Jury Reform

Received a presentation from committee staff on the process and purpose of impaneling a grand jury.

Received information from a legislator on the challenges faced by the House Special Investigative Committee with regard to grand juries.

Received a presentation from the Statewide Association of Public Attorneys on possible changes to Utah's grand jury laws.

*Chairs: Rep. Jack R. Draxler / Sen. Margaret Dayton
Staff: Brian J. Bean (Policy Analyst) / Shannon C. Halverson (Attorney) / Thomas R. Vaughn (Attorney) / Victoria Ashby (Attorney) / Anna M. Allen (Secretary)*

Health and Human Services

Sunset Review — Children's Hearing Aid Pilot Program

Received a report from the Department of Health on the implementation of the [Children's Hearing Aid Pilot Program](#) and a recommendation that the pilot program be converted to a permanent program after FY 2015. The two-year pilot program for children under three years of age has received an appropriation of \$100,000 for FY 2013 and again in FY 2014. It has provided hearing aids to 17 children since it began accepting applications in November 2013.

Action: Voted to recommend that the sponsor of the pilot program come back to the committee with draft legislation repealing or extending the sunset date for the program.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse — Recovery Residences

Received a report from the Utah Substance Abuse Advisory Council on a study to be completed later this year by its Recovery Residences and Substance Abuse Treatment Committee, recently created in response to 2014 General Session [H.B. 211, "Substance Abuse Amendments."](#)

Medicaid — Disclosure of Net Pharmaceutical Costs

Considered whether health care providers who prescribe pharmaceuticals to Medicaid enrollees should be informed of the comparative net cost to the state of the drugs they can potentially prescribe. The Department of Health [reported](#) that it believes it can create a cost rating system that imposes no additional costs on the department and does not disclose proprietary information. It reported that it will move forward with implementation of the system unless discussions with the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, and the pharmaceutical industry identify any legal concerns.

Prescription Drug Abuse — Controlled Substance Database

Received a [report](#) from a Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing contractor on the [feasibility](#) of requiring [real-time reporting](#) of prescription purchases to the division's controlled substance database. Also received reports by the division's Utah Board of Pharmacy and representatives of two pharmacy associations.

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Regulation of Electronic Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products

Discussed recently [proposed federal regulations](#) that would “deem” certain products, including electronic cigarettes and related “components,” to be within the scope of the US Food and Drug Administration’s regulatory authority under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (2009). Received input from e-cigarette retailers.

Action: Directed committee staff to draft a comment letter to the US Food and Drug Administration, which will be reviewed by the committee members and then signed by the chairs.

Chairs: Rep. Paul Ray / Sen. Evan J. Vickers

Staff: Mark D. Andrews (Policy Analyst) / Samuel C. Johnston (Attorney) / Cathy J. Dupont (Attorney) / Lee A. Killian (Attorney) / Lori Rammell (Secretarial Supervisor)

Health Reform Task Force

June 12, 2014

All-Payers Claims Database

Received a report from the Department of Health on the development of the state’s All-Payers Claims Database (APCD). The department reported that:

- For the past nine months it has been concentrating on improving APCD data quality;
- It will release APCD data in Fall 2014, and the data will not include individuals’ identifiers; and
- By next summer it will be able to assess whether the APCD can be used to create a state risk-adjustment program for health insurers under the federal Affordable Care Act.

The department also reported that it is considering whether to collect data directly from providers, in contrast to its past practice of collecting data only from insurers.

Avenue H

Received a [report](#) from Avenue H, the state’s small-employer health insurance exchange. At this time, 478 employer groups are participating in Avenue H and 10,899 individuals are covered by medical plans offered on the exchange. Avenue H contrasted its performance with the absence or failure of small-employer exchanges in other states. Avenue H plans to be able to aggregate premium contributions from multiple employers by Fall 2014. It also reports that it could expand exchange participation to employers with 51 to 100 employees and would welcome that change.

Action: Voted to consider at the next meeting whether Avenue H participation should be expanded to include employers with 51 to 100 employees.

Enrollment Window Exceptions Under the Affordable Care Act

Received reports from task force staff and the Utah Health Policy Project on the availability and use of qualifying events and special enrollment circumstances for enrollment in the federal Health Insurance Marketplace between March 31,

2014, and November 15, 2014, when open enrollment is not available. Utah Health Policy Project reported that loss of employment and loss of insurance coverage are the two most commonly used qualifying events.

Fair Share Penalty

Briefed by task force staff on the delayed enforcement of the federal Affordable Care Act’s fair share penalty for employers, which is also referred to as the employer mandate, and which applies to the State of Utah as an employer. [Briefed](#) by the Department of Human Resource Management on the state’s compliance with related requirements.

The department identified important questions about compliance that remain unanswered by federal regulations. The department is consulting with the governor to determine whether the state can comply with specified requirements by offering certain individuals a health insurance plan that is less expensive than those generally offered to full-time employees.

Chairs: Rep. James A. Dunnigan / Sen. Allen M. Christensen

Staff: Mark D. Andrews (Policy Analyst) / Cathy J. Dupont (Attorney) / Lori Rammell (Secretarial Supervisor)

Judiciary

Expungement of Administrative Records

Discussed the expungement of administrative records, including concerns related to agency access, the sharing of public and private records, and agency interpretations of existing statutory language. Received information on expungement from the Utah Insurance Department, the Driver License Division, Peace Officer Standards and Training, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Human Services, and the Utah State Office of Education.

Action: Directed committee staff to open a committee bill file to address conflicts in [Utah Code Title 77, Chapter 40, Utah Expungement Act](#).

Chairs: Rep. Kay L. McCliff / Sen. Mark B. Madsen

Staff: Melinda Boulter (Policy Analyst) / Esther Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Kristen C. Ricks (Secretary)

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Department of Public Safety Overview

Received a [report](#) from the Department of Public Safety regarding activities and accomplishments of the cyber crimes task force, the status of recently authorized increases in personnel, salary comparisons, and an overview of the statewide warrants system.

General Policies for Serving Search Warrants

Received a report from the Department of Public Safety regarding the policies and procedures used when serving a search warrant. The department explained the difference between “knock and announce” and “no-knock” warrants and why each would be used. The department responded to questions from committee members and explained its partnership with the FBI in the investigation of two recent Utah attorneys general.

Inmate Education Programs

Received a [statutorily required report](#) from the Department of Corrections regarding the impact of inmate education programs on recidivism rates. The department reported that it contracts with Davis Applied Technology College, Snow College, and Uintah Basin Applied Technology College to provide postsecondary education to eligible inmates. The department reported that 162 inmates graduated from these programs and earned certificates in their respective fields of study since January 2010. Inmates who participated in these programs were 8% less likely to be returned to custody after 12 months of postincarceration supervision.

New Felonies and Enhancements on Existing Punishments

The committee received a [report](#) from the Sentencing Commission regarding felonies and enhancements on existing punishments that have been enacted over the past five years. According to Sentencing Commission staff, the Legislature enacted four new felonies or enhancements to existing felonies and repealed three felonies as part of the 2014 General Session.

Rape Kit Processing

Received [presentations](#) from the Utah Sexual Violence Council, law enforcement, victims' advocates, and the state crime lab regarding ongoing efforts to review the processing of rape kits and identify causes of backlogs of rape kits that have not been analyzed.

Restoration of Civil Rights to Certain Nonviolent Felons

Received a [presentation](#) from Sentencing Commission staff regarding efforts to study and identify the collateral consequences of Utah sentencing practices as they affect the civil rights of defendants and whether the Legislature should consider revising existing law to allow the restoration of certain civil rights to persons convicted of certain nonviolent felonies.

Chairs: Rep. Curtis Oda / Sen. Todd Weiler

Staff: Nathan W. Brady (Policy Analyst) / Susan Creager Allred (Attorney) / Lori Rammell (Secretarial Supervisor)

Legislative Management Committee

Received a report from the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst on the costs associated with legislative site visits, which have been approved by the committee to begin next year and occur every other year depending on availability of funds.

Action: *Approved as a committee bill, a resolution reappointing John Fellows as legislative General Counsel for a term of six years.*

Action: *Approved the recommendation of the legislative fiscal analyst to purchase the REMI-Taxpi software that will be used for revenue forecasting.*

Action: *Approved a change in the interim committee schedule for afternoon committee meetings.*

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Beginning in July 2014, these meetings will begin at 2:30 p.m. rather than at 2:00 p.m.

Action: *Approved the requests of the following appropriations subcommittees:*

- *Executive Offices and Criminal Justice for a meeting on July 17, 2014;*
- *Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality for meetings on July 30 and September 18, 2014;*
- *Public Education for two meetings and one joint meeting with all legislative education committees, the State Board of Education, and the State Board of Regents; and*
- *Retirement and Independent Entities for meetings with the Retirement and Independent Entities Interim Committee on July 9 and September 10, 2014.*

Action: *Approved the request of the Government Communications Task Force to hold meetings in Richfield on June 23, 2014, and in Vernal on July 10, 2014.*

Action: *Approved the request of the Political Subdivisions Interim Committee to study the adequacy of current statutes regarding standards of unethical or criminal conduct of government officials and employees in hiring practices and in the use of public services for campaigns.*

Action: *Approved a motion asking the Education Interim Committee to study the Common Core curriculum and to report back to the committee at the end of the 2014 interim.*

*Chair & Vice Chair: Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart / Sen. Wayne L. Niederhauser
Staff: Michael E. Christensen (Director) / John L. Fellows (General Counsel) / Phalin L. Flowers (Administrative Assistant)*

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

Impact of Federal Land Ownership, Intervention, and Policies

The committee discussed ways that federal land ownership and federal agency actions affect the state and its citizens. The discussion focused on grazing permits on federal lands and on state, local, and federal law enforcement jurisdiction.

Public Lands Policy Coordination Office

The Public Lands Policy Coordination Office reported on the office's activities and expenditures.

State Fairpark Master Plan

The Division of Facilities Construction and Management and the division's consultant reported on the progress of a master plan for the state fairpark and the surrounding area.

Water Quality Board Total Maximum Daily Load Report

The Water Quality Board reported on a proposal that recommends a total maximum daily load end point and implementation strategy for Echo and Rockport Reservoirs.

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The committee discussed the cost to implement this strategy, including costs to upgrade the Silver Creek Water Reclamation Facility, the lagoon in Kamas City, and on-site wastewater disposal systems, and to control agricultural run-off.

*Chairs: Rep. Michael E. Noel / Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Staff: J Brian Allred (Policy Analyst) / RuthAnne Frost (Attorney) / Anna M. Allen (Secretary)*

Political Subdivisions

Ethics Laws for Local Government Officials and Employees

Reviewed statutes regarding standards of unethical or criminal conduct by government officials and employees, including hiring practices and the use of public services for campaigns.

Good Landlord Program

Reviewed the state statute that authorizes, under specified conditions, a municipality to charge landlords a fee to recover the municipality's disproportionate costs of providing municipal services to residential rental units compared to similarly situated owner-occupied housing.

School Planning and Zoning

Discussed municipal and county land use provisions in relation to schools.

UTOPIA Telecommunications Utility Fee

Received comments from the League of Cities and Towns, the Utah Taxpayer Association, and members of the public regarding a proposal the Utah Telecommunication Open Infrastructure Agency (UTOPIA) is considering regarding a public-private partnership to provide municipal broadband service.

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Received a presentation from Macquarie Capitol, an Australian-based company, regarding its proposal to finance the construction of a basic broadband network. Macquarie Capitol would be repaid through a monthly telecommunications utility fee charged to all residences and businesses within the member cities, regardless of whether a residence or business uses the service.

*Chairs: Rep. R. Curt Webb / Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher
Staff: Joseph T. Wade (Policy Analyst) / Victoria Ashby (Attorney) / Sara J. Thomas (Secretary)*

Prison Relocation Commission

June 19, 2014

Communications Plan and Site Selection Criteria

Received a [presentation](#) from commission consultants that included:

- A prospective communication plan for the commission;
- Prospective criteria for evaluating land upon which to construct a prison;
- Processes that must be completed to select land; and
- A [timeline](#) for accomplishing those processes.

Received a [presentation](#) from the Department of Corrections on prospective criteria for evaluating land upon which to construct a prison.

Work Group Updates

Received progress reports from each of the commission's three [work groups](#):

- Site Selection;
- Plan of Financing; and
- Criminal Justice Reform and Programming.

*Chairs: Rep. Brad R. Wilson / Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson
Staff: Brian J. Bean (Policy Analyst) / Bryant R. Howe (Assistant Director) / Robert H. Rees (Associate General Counsel) / Sara J. Thomas (Legislative Secretary)*

Public Utilities and Technology

Alternative Electric Energy Generation and Utility Network Impacts

Received a presentation from First Wind Energy about its existing solar electric power generation and its proposed Four Brothers large solar electric power facility. Electric power rates will be fixed for 20 years and the electric power will be available in the daytime during greatest consumer demands. First Wind also provides wind-generated electric power and transmission infrastructure throughout the southwestern United States.

Utility Franchise Tax Business Forecasting

Received presentations from the Utah Association of Energy Users and the Utah League of Cities and Towns about municipal energy sales and use taxes. They expressed concern about the range of volatility in taxes collected by municipalities when the taxes are calculated on a cost-basis and energy prices are significantly fluctuating.

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The Utah Association of Energy Users also provided draft legislation that proposes to change the process from collecting taxes based on the cost of energy to the amount of energy used. The Utah League of Cities and Towns indicated that it is a willing participant in this discussion; a key consideration for the league is equity in the payment of municipal energy taxes.

*Chairs: Rep. Roger E. Barrus / Sen. David P. Hinkins
Staff: Richard C. North (Policy Analyst) / Samuel C. Johnston (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Secretary)*

Revenue and Taxation

Appropriations Limit Formula Amendments

Action: *Approved as a committee bill, [draft legislation "Appropriations Limit Formula Amendments"](#) which recodifies and clarifies the state appropriations limit formula by providing definitions and mathematical formulas.*

Distribution of Local Sales and Use Tax

Received a presentation from a legislator on 2014 General Session [H.B. 434, "Local Sales and Use Tax Amendments,"](#) which would modify the distribution of the 1% local option sales and use tax by allowing a portion of revenues to be distributed as follows:

- 50% on the basis of population;
- 25% on the basis of the location of the transaction; and
- 25% on the basis of the fair market value of taxable real and personal property.

Action: *Directed committee staff to open and prioritize a committee bill file to draft a bill similar to H.B. 434, but that also addresses administrative issues raised by the Utah State Tax Commission and provides a process by which the local option sales and use tax distribution may be corrected in the case of a distribution error.*

Sales and Use Tax on Vehicle Trade-Ins

Received a [presentation](#) from a legislator on a proposal regarding a sales and use tax exemption for vehicles. Currently, vehicle trade-ins are exempt if the trade-in and the purchase of a new vehicle occur as part of the same transaction and between two parties. The legislator proposed allowing for a sales and use tax exemption for the sale of a vehicle that occurs within a short time after the purchase of a new vehicle.

State and Local Sales and Use Tax System

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff on Utah's sales and use tax system, including:

- The base, [state](#), and [local rates](#);
- Revenues;
- Exemptions; and
- Exclusions.

Taxation of Social Security Benefits

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff, a legislative fiscal analyst, and a legislator regarding the taxation of Social Security income in the 50 states and the fiscal impacts of not taxing this income.

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Most states do not tax Social Security income. Of the 13 states that do:

- Six states tax Social Security income to the same extent it is taxed under the federal income tax system;
- Four states exempt Social Security income based on adjusted gross income;
- Two states exempt a portion of Social Security income based on age; and
- Utah provides a retirement tax credit on the basis of age, date of birth, and income level and type.

Exempting Social Security from Utah's income tax would reduce income tax revenue by \$63 million annually.

*Chairs: Rep. Daniel McCay / Sen. Deidre M. Henderson
Staff: Bryant R. Howe (Assistant Director) / Leif G. Elder (Policy Analyst) / Rebecca L. Rockwell (Attorney) / Sara J. Thomas (Secretary)*

Senate Judicial Confirmation Committee

June 16, 2014

Confirmation of Michael Leavitt

The committee met on June 16, 2014, and recommended that the Senate confirm Mr. Michael Leavitt as a Juvenile Court Judge in the Fifth Judicial District.

Confirmation of Paul Dame

The committee met on June 16, 2014, and recommended that the Senate confirm Mr. Paul Dame as a Juvenile Court Judge in the Fifth Judicial District.

*Chairs: Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Staff: Michael E. Christensen (Director) / Susan Creager Allred (Attorney) / Kristen C. Ricks (Secretary)*

Transportation

State Highway System Report

Received a statutorily required annual report from the Utah Department of Transportation regarding proposed additions to or deletions from the state highway system.

Long-Term Planning

Received reports from the Utah Transit Authority, the Driver License Division, and the Utah Department of Transportation regarding their efforts to accomplish their statutory responsibilities and the long-term planning needed to address emerging issues.

Utah Transit Authority Long-Term Planning Material:

- [UTA Future Challenges and Opportunities](#)
- [UTA Strategic Plan](#)
- [UTA Strategic Plan card](#)

Driver License Division Long-Term Planning Material:

- [Driver License Division Long-Term Needs and Planning presentation](#)

Utah Department of Transportation Long-Term Planning Material:

- [UDOT Long-Term Needs and Planning presentation](#)
- [UDOT Transfer Under Discussion](#)

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Driver License Record Amendments

Received a report from the Driver License Division regarding 2014 General Session [H.B. 377, "Driver License Record Amendments,"](#) which did not pass. The division noted that the legislation was introduced late in the session, and recommended that the legislation be prepared for introduction in the 2015 General Session.

Sunset Review — Conditional Driver License

Received a report from the Driver License Division regarding whether [Utah Code Section 53-3-232](#) should be allowed to sunset on July 1, 2015. The section imposes restrictions on the division's authority to issue, reinstate, or renew a driver license as a "no alcohol" conditional license. The division recommended that the section be allowed to sunset.

Sunset Material:

- [Sunset Date for 533-3-232](#)
- [Utah Code Section scheduled to sunset July 1, 2015](#)
- [Sunset Review Criteria](#)

Chairs: Rep. Johnny Anderson / Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell

Staff: Art L. Hunsaker (Policy Analyst) / Shannon C. Halverson (Attorney) / Timothy J. Barber (Secretary)

Veterans' and Military Affairs

Commission

May 29, 2014

Coordination of Veterans Services

Received a presentation from the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs about the number of veterans in the state, the types of services the department requests and receives, and training for state agencies that provide veterans' services. The report included coordination information about education, employment, and homeless assistance for veterans.

Military Suicides and Prevention

Received a presentation from the US Department of Veterans Administration's Utah Suicide Prevention Coordinator about the number of veteran suicides and attempted suicides. The report noted that Utah ranks seventh in the nation for suicides, with 545 deaths in 2012.

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The National Suicide Hotline for Utah reported 295 calls and 29 rescues since October 2013.

The Utah National Guard also presented information about its R3SP program - Resilience, Risk Reduction, & Suicide Prevention - for addressing suicides and prevention. The Utah Department of Human Services also presented information about state and local government programs regarding suicide prevention and coordination with federal programs.

US Department of Veterans Affairs

Received a presentation from a Utah senator about current issues and a congressional review regarding veterans' hospital services provided by the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Discussion followed, including input about the effective services received from the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System in contrast to other states' VA hospitals, reorganization of VA bureaucracy based on the upcoming inspector general's report, and requests for additional VA funding to address the returning veterans from overseas deployments.

Utah Military Affairs

Received a presentation from the executive director of the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs about its objectives for addressing veterans' needs and military affairs. Those objectives include efficient, coordinated delivery of veterans' services, and expanding the workload on Utah's military installation.

The Utah Defense Alliance presented information about the approximately 30,000 Utah civilian jobs that support military installations in Utah. The alliance also conducts efficiency and feasibility studies that support Utah's military installation during federal military base realignment commission hearings. The Military Installation Development Authority presented information about its role in supporting and managing economic development of state property for military installations.

Chairs: Rep. Paul Ray / Sen. Peter C. Knudson

Staff: Richard C. North (Policy Analyst) / Esther Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Secretary)

Next Interim Day — [July 16, 2014](#)



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Staff: Susan Creager Allred, Nathan W. Brady, Leif G. Elder, and Anna M. Allen

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