SUMMARY

This report summarizes Utah State Office of Rehabilitation intent language passed by the Legislature during its 2014 General Session and provides an agency response regarding the status of each piece of passed intent language. The purpose of this issue brief is to determine if the agency complied with the intent statements adopted by the Legislature during its 2014 General Session. The analyst has no concerns of non-compliance.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

No action is required by the Legislature regarding this issue brief. It is provided as information only, but may inform Legislative action taken on intent language during the 2015 General Session.

UTAH STATE OFFICE OF REHABILITATION:

The Legislature intends that the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation Services prepare proposed performance measures for all new state funding or TANF federal funds for building blocks and give this information to the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst by June 30, 2014. The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation Services shall provide its first report on its performance measures to the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst by October 31, 2014. The Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall give this information to the legislative staff of the Health and Human Services Interim Committee. If the new money will go to a pass through entity, the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation Services shall work with each pass through entity to provide the same performance measure information. (S.B. 3, Item 79 (for FY 2014) and H.B. 2, Item 84 (for FY 2015)

Agency Response:

In reviewing our records, the agency appears to have overlooked the report due on October 31, 2014, but has since provided it to the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst.

The Legislature intends the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR) report to the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst by September 1, 2014 regarding its efforts and progress in addressing each specific recommendation contained in the Utah State Auditor's "A Performance Audit of the Division of Rehabilitation Services Cost Controls" (No. 13-03) released in September of 2013. If there are any recommendations USOR is not addressing, the Legislature further intends USOR explain why it is not addressing those recommendations. (S.B. 8, Item 43)

Agency Response:

The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR) provided a written report on the progress of the efforts in addressing the specific recommendations contained in Performance Audit of the Division or Rehabilitation Services Cost Controls on July 10, 2014. In response to LFA questions regarding the report, a revised report to answer those questions was submitted to the LFA on July 29, 2014.

The Legislature intends that the Departments of Workforce Services, Health, Human Services, Technology Services, and the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation provide a report regarding all current background checks of individuals and possible efficiencies for consolidation. The Legislature intends that agencies provide a report to the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst by September 1, 2014. The report shall include the following regarding each background check program: (1) name and purpose of the program, (2) expenditures and staffing for the last three years, (3) types of problems the background check is looking for, (4) the databases searched, and (5) technology used. The report should provide recommendations where different background check systems might be combined. (H.B. 2, Item 84)

Agency Response:
The Legislature intends that the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation report on the following performance measures for its line item: (1) Vocational Rehabilitation - Increase the number of rehabilitation outcomes (Target = 3,665), (2) Vocational Rehabilitation - maintain or increase a successful rehabilitation closure rate (Target = 60%), and (3) Deaf and Hard of Hearing - Increase in the number of individuals served by Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing programs (Target = 7,144) by January 1, 2015 to the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee. (S.B. 8, Item 43)

Agency Response:

The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR) provided a report on the performance measures to the legislative fiscal analyst for the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee on January 6, 2015. For measurement (1), the VR program realized 3,699 rehabilitation outcomes. Measurement (2) was a rehabilitation closure rate of 50.56%. Measure (3) saw the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing serve 7,337 individuals.