

**MINUTES OF THE  
EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**  
Friday, March 6, 2015 – 12:00 p.m. – Room 210, Senate Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard, Co-Chair  
Rep. Dean Sanpei, Co-Chair  
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson, Vice Chair  
Rep. Brad L. Dee, Vice Chair  
Sen. J. Stuart Adams  
Sen. Jim Dabakis  
Sen. Gene Davis  
Sen. Luz Escamilla  
Sen. Peter C. Knudson  
Sen. Karen Mayne  
President Wayne L. Niederhauser  
Sen. Ralph Okerlund  
Rep. Patrice M. Arent

Rep. Joel K. Briscoe  
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck  
Rep. James A. Dunnigan  
Rep. Francis D. Gibson  
Speaker Gregory H. Hughes  
Rep. Brian S. King  
Rep. Brad R. Wilson

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Jonathan Ball, Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
Mr. Steven Allred, Deputy Director  
Ms. Greta Rodebush, Legislative Secretary  
Ms. Linda Black, Committee Secretary

**Note:** A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Call to Order/Approval of Minutes**

Co-Chair Sanpei called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** Sen. Hillyard moved to approve the minutes of February 18, 2015. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Adams, Rep. Dunnigan, and Speaker Hughes absent for the vote.

**2. FY 2015 and FY 2016 Budget Actions**

**MOTION:** Sen. Hillyard moved to approve the motions for appropriations subcommittees' fees, intent language, and budgets as shown in the yellow packet entitled "Consolidated Motions for Executive Appropriations Committee" and dated March 6, 2015.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Sen. Escamilla moved to adopt the chair's underlying motion and add the following intent language:

*The Legislature intends that the Legislative Management Committee, study by the July interim meeting the long term viability of the State Fair Park in its current location.*

Rep. Wilson remarked that the State Fair Park is a weighty issue that is going to take more time for study. He suggested moving the study back one or two months. Sen. Escamilla agreed to modify the substitute motion to reflect the month of September.

Sen. Hillyard recommended that October might be a safer choice because the Legislative Management Committee does not meet very month. He also mentioned the possibility of a site visit in September.

Sen. Escamilla agreed to modify the substitute motion to reflect the month of October.

The substitute motion passed unanimously with Sen. Adams absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Hillyard moved to adopt February 2015 revenue estimates as shown on the blue sheet entitled, “Revenue Estimates – February 2015 (in Thousands of Dollars)” and dated February 18, 2015. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Adams absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Hillyard moved to approve the additional sources of finance listed on the green sheet entitled “Additional One-time and Ongoing Budget Sources, 2015 General Session” and dated today, March 6, 2015. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Adams absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Hillyard moved to approve the budget changes as shown in the salmon packet entitled, “Approved Funding Items – Executive Appropriations Committee” and dated today, March 6, 2015.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Sen. Okerlund moved to accept the underlying motion and add the following intent language to accompany the \$1,000,000 appropriation on line 62 of the salmon packet:

*The Legislature intends that the \$1,000,000 appropriated in this line for “Legal Fees – Endangered Species” be used for multistage sage grouse litigation.*

A vote was taken on the substitute motion. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Adams absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Briscoe moved to approve the additional ongoing and one-time sources of funding and budget changes shown on the pink sheet titled, “Funding Option List – Democrats 3\_6” and dated March 6, 2015.

Rep. Briscoe discussed the funding sources within the Transportation Investment Fund (TIF) for Sales Tax Earmark Change on the pink sheet. He proposed that \$35 million ongoing and \$15 million one-time be moved from the TIF to the General Fund. Rep. Briscoe then reviewed the Funding Option List and how the additional ongoing and one-time money would be spent.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Rep. Chavez-Houck moved to accept the underlying motion with the intent language as follows:

*The Legislature intends that funding for East Capitol Boulevard improvements be expended only as a one to one match with funds from Salt Lake City.*

The substitute motion failed with Sen. Dabakis, Sen. Davis, Sen. Escamilla, Sen. Mayne, Rep. Arent, Rep. Briscoe, Rep. Chavez-Houck, and Rep. King voting in favor of the motion. Sen. Adams was absent for the vote.

Rep. Arent stated that there were a number of worthwhile items on the “Funding Option List – Democrats 3\_6” that need some serious attention in our budget. She highlighted Air Quality CARROT Grants, Air Quality Research, and Intermountain Donor Services.

Rep. Briscoe explained that the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) had made presentations to various legislative committees indicating that \$94 million could be moved out of the TIF and placed into the General Fund without compromising UDOT’s ability to complete currently scheduled projects. He stated that the recommendation to move \$35 million from the TIF into ongoing funds was much smaller amount, and would be used to increase funding for public and higher education and other items. As far as the \$15 million one-time is concerned, Rep. Briscoe had explained earlier that approximately \$15 million was available from a pavement settlement within the TIF.

A vote was taken on Rep. Briscoe’s motion. The motion failed with Sen. Dabakis, Sen. Davis, Sen. Escamilla, Sen. Mayne, Rep. Arent, Rep. Briscoe, Rep. Chavez-Houck, and Rep. King voting in favor of the motion.

**MOTION:** Sen. Dabakis moved to reconsider the committee’s action on the salmon sheet to remove the funding on line 340 for Capitol Building Exterior Security.

In response to the motion, Rep. Dee, Capitol Preservation Board Member, remarked that he had heard several presentations on capitol exterior security with the breeches that have happened and avoiding them in the future. Rep. Dee considers Capitol Building Exterior Security a major priority and stated that if we do nothing about security, our liabilities will be exponential.

Sen. Dabakis responded that he was not against increased security for the Capitol, but the issue was more a question of priorities. He felt that the \$2.8 million could also be used in a more effective manner.

A vote was take on the motion. The motion failed with Sen. Dabakis, Rep. Chavez-Houck, and Rep. King voting in favor of the motion.

**MOTION:** Sen. Hillyard moved to authorize legislative staff to draft the following bills:

- House Bill 2, Public Education Budget Amendments;
- House Bill 3, Current Fiscal Year Supplemental Appropriations;
- House Bill 8, State Agency and Higher Education Compensation Appropriations;
- Senate Bill 2, New Fiscal Year Supplemental Appropriations Act;
- Senate Bill 4, Current School Year Supplemental Public Education Budget Adjustments; and
- Senate Bill 8, State Agency Fees and Internal Service Fund Authorization and Appropriations

as Executive Appropriations Committee bills. The compensation bill will include funding equivalent to a 2.25% general salary increase for state employees plus funding equivalent to a 0.75% increase for market comparability adjustments, a 4.9% rate increase for health insurance benefits for state employees, retirement rate changes for state employees as recommended by URS, unemployment compensation rate reductions to reflect cost reductions, and up to \$3 million for Annual Leave 2 liability. In consultation with the co-chairs of the Executive Appropriations Committee, the Legislative Fiscal Analyst may make

any technical changes necessary, including balancing between funds and fiscal years in order to balance the overall budget.

The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Other Business/Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Sen. Hillyard moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Sanpei adjourned the meeting at 1:26 pm.