

### **INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS**

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#### LEGISLATIVE INTERIM MEETINGS

Meetings were held November 18, 2015, or as noted.

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

(Click on the committee you would like to view)

**Administrative Rules Review** 

**Business and Labor** 

**Charter School Funding Task Force** 

Economic Development and Workforce
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**Education** 

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**Government Operations** 

**Health and Human Services** 

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Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Legislative Management Committee

Native American Legislative Liaison

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and

Environment

**Political Subdivisions** 

**Prison Development Commission** 

**Public Utilities and Technology** 

Retirement and Independent Entities

Revenue and Taxation

**State Water Development Commission** 

**Transportation** 

**Utah Tax Review Commission** 

**Veterans' and Military Affairs Commission** 

\*\*List of Committee Bills for the 2016
General Session as of December 29, 2015 \*\*

#### **Administrative Rules Review Committee**

October 30, 2015

## Legislative Audit—Communication of State's Liability Protection for School District Employees

Discussed how information regarding the state's liability protection is communicated to school district employees and the timing of those communications.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "<u>State</u> <u>Liability Protection for School Employees</u>," which modifies certain deadlines related to public school employee participation in the Risk Management Fund.

#### **NOx Emission Limits for Natural Gas-Fired Water Heaters**

Received a presentation from the Utah Home Builders Association and the Utah Association of Realtors expressing concern that a Division of Air Quality <u>administrative rule</u> governing water heaters was in conflict with the <u>Utah Code</u>. Also received a presentation from the Division of Air Quality explaining the benefits of the administrative rule's requirements. Discussed whether the administrative rule was in conflict with state law and whether the rule raised public policy issues that should be addressed by the Legislature in statute rather than by a state agency in administrative rule.

**Action:** Voted to place R307-230, "NOx Emission Limits for Natural Gas-Fired Water Heaters," on the list of state agency administrative rules that the committee recommends not be reauthorized by the Legislature in the 2016 General Session. Also voted to send a letter to the Business and Labor Interim Committee and the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee suggesting that the two committees consider addressing the public policy issues raised by the administrative rule prior to the Legislature's 2016 General Session.

November 16, 2015

#### **Electronic Cigarette Substance Standards**

Received a presentation from the Utah Smoke Free Association, which claimed that Health Department administrative rule R384-415, which sets electronic cigarette substance standards, conflicts with state statute (Utah Code Section 59-14--803 and Utah Code Section 26-57-103) and also places an undue burden on the regulated industry. The Department of Health welcomed additional public comment prior to the rule taking effect. The committee expressed interest in discussing the administrative rule again prior to its effective date.

#### **Hunting Guides**

Discussed the <u>statutes</u>, policies, and potential need for administrative rules governing licensed and unlicensed hunting guides.

### Potential Changes to the Division of Administrative Rules

Discussed legislation being drafted for committee review that addresses changes to the current structure of the Division of Administrative Rules within the Department of Administrative Services.

Chairs: Rep. Curtis Oda / Sen. Howard A. Stephenson
Staff: Art L. Hunsaker (Policy Analyst) / Christine R. Gilbert (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman
(Legislative Assistant)

#### **Business and Labor**

#### **Abuse-Deterrent Opioid Analgesic Drug Products**

Received a <u>statutorily</u> required <u>report</u> and <u>presentation</u> from the Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program regarding the barriers to and the efficacy of the use of abusedeterrent opioid analgesic drug products.

### Occupational and Professional Licensure Review Committee

Received a <u>statutorily</u> required <u>report</u> from the <u>Occupational</u> <u>and Professional Licensure Review Committee</u> regarding the committee's studies and recommendations.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Occupational and Professional Licensure Review Committee Amendments," which modifies the responsibilities of the committee, including:

- Expanding the scope of the committee to include all occupations and professions, not only occupations and professions under <u>Title 58</u>, "Occupations and <u>Professions"</u>;
- Authorizing the committee to conduct a review or study regarding any occupational or professional licensure matter;
- Requiring the committee, when conducting a sunrise or sunset review, to consider potentially less restrictive alternatives to licensing, including registration or certification, that would avoid unnecessary regulation while still protecting the health and safety of the public; and
- Allowing the committee to continue its study regarding less restrictive alternatives to licensure.

#### **Passenger Carrier Requirements**

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Passenger Carrier Requirements," which prohibits a person from operating a motor vehicle as a private passenger carrier unless the person has a valid taxicab endorsement or a commercial driver license.

#### **Public Access to Administrative Actions**

Discussed draft legislation "Public Access to Administrative Actions," which modifies Title 63G, Chapter 4, Administrative Procedures Act to address public access to administrative actions.

#### **State Fire Code**

Discussed draft legislation "State Fire Code Amendments," which amends provisions of the State Fire Code Act as recommended by the Utah Fire Prevention Board.

#### **Statutorily Required Reports**

Action: Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Business and Labor Interim Committee Report
Amendments," which modifies provisions regarding reporting to the Business and Labor Interim Committee. The draft legislation eliminates three statutorily required reports, adds one report, and modifies some reporting provisions, including report dates and the requirement that certain reports be in writing.

## Sunset Review—Foreclosure of Residential Rental Properties

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Foreclosure of Residential Rental Property," which, under certain circumstances, allows a preexisting tenant to continue to occupy, for a limited time, a residential rental property after a forced sale at public auction and also eliminates a sunset repeal date.

#### **U.S. Supreme Court Case Regarding Licensing**

Action: Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Department of Commerce Boards, Committees, and Commissions Concurrence Amendments," which modifies provisions related to concurrence with a board, committee, or commission and who is to make a final determination if concurrence cannot be reached.

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#### Utah Sichuan Economic and Cultural Exchange Association

Received a <u>statutorily</u> required <u>report</u> and <u>presentation</u> from the Governor's Office of Economic Development and World Trade Center Utah regarding the creation of the Utah Sichuan Economic and Cultural Exchange Association, Inc. The report included an accounting of the \$240,000 appropriation in 2015 General Session <u>S.B. 2</u>, "New Fiscal Year Supplemental Appropriations Act."

#### Sunset Review—Worker Classification

Action: Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Worker Classification Coordinated Enforcement Act Sunset Amendments," which removes <u>Title 34</u>, <u>Chapter 47</u>, <u>Worker Classification Coordinated Enforcement Act</u> sunset requirement from <u>Title 631</u>, <u>Chapter 1</u>, <u>Legislative Oversight and Sunset Act</u>.

### **Worker Classification Coordinated Enforcement Council**

Received a <u>statutorily</u> required <u>report</u> from the <u>Worker</u> <u>Classification Coordinated Enforcement Council</u> regarding the effectiveness of the council in reducing worker misclassification by employers.

#### **Workers' Compensation Hearings**

Received a <u>statutorily</u> required <u>report</u> from the <u>Labor</u> <u>Commission</u> regarding the number of applications for and dispositions of hearings to review the decision of an employer or insurance carrier regarding a compensable industrial accident or occupational disease.

Chairs: Rep. Val L. Peterson / Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Staff: Joseph T. Wade (Policy Analyst) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Samuel C. Johnston
(Attorney) / Lucy W. Daynes (Legislative Assistant)

#### **Charter School Funding Task Force**

October 29, 2015

#### **Charter School Local Replacement Funding**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from a legislator regarding statewide property tax equalization and the exclusion of revenue from the voted, board, and capital guarantee programs from the charter school local replacement formula. Received briefings from <u>committee staff</u> and from the <u>State Board of Education</u> about types of property tax revenue excluded from the charter school local replacement formula, including revenue expended for recreation facilities, playgrounds, pupil transportation, and the K-3 Reading program.

Discussed draft legislation "School Funding Amendments," which would amend the portion of charter school local replacement funded by the state.

#### **Limits on Charter School Enrollment Capacity**

Discussed how caps on charter school enrollment affect charter schools' ability to mitigate the impact of funding charter schools using average daily membership plus growth.

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#### Weighting of the Pupil Unit by Grade Level for Charter Schools

Received a <u>briefing</u> from the State Office of Education about the effects of eliminating the statutory weighting for the charter school weighted pupil unit and determining charter school local replacement using average daily membership plus growth.

**Action:** Voted to open a task force bill file to eliminate the weighting by grade level for charter school weighted pupil units and instead appropriate one weighted pupil unit per charter school student.

Chairs: Rep. Steve Eliason / Sen. Howard A. Stephenson Staff: Allyson R. Goldstein (Policy Analyst) / Ben Leishman (Fiscal Analyst) / Tiffany A. Stanley (Policy Analyst) / Tracy J. Nuttall (Attorney) / Victoria Ashby (Attorney) / Rebekah M. Bradway (Attorney) / Debra Hale (Legislative Assistant)

# Economic Development and Workforce Services

#### **Enterprise Zone Amendments**

Received a presentation from a legislator and the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) on draft legislation related to accountability and reporting for the enterprise zone program.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Enterprise Zone Amendments," which modifies the population requirements to qualify for designation as an enterprise zone and grants certain rulemaking and data collection authority to GOED related to enterprise zone tax credit certificates.

#### Governor's Office of Economic Development— Proposed Legislation

Received a <u>presentation</u> from committee staff and GOED on five pieces of proposed legislation.

Action: Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Economic Development Tax Increment Financing Amendments," which:

- Creates the Economic Incentive Restricted Account as a restricted account in the General Fund:
- Allows for the state to pay certain outstanding financial commitments and pay a partial rebate to certain business entities; and
- Provides procedures for the application and payment of a partial rebate.

Action: Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Business Resource Centers Amendments," which repeals the Utah Business Assistance Advisory Board and allows GOED to convene an advisory group as needed to make recommendations for business resource center improvements.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "<u>Office of Outdoor Recreation Amendments</u>," which creates the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Grant Program.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "STEM Program Amendments," which:

- Modifies the membership and duties of the STEM Action Center Board and its director;
- Modifies the rulemaking authority of the State Board of Education related to STEM education endorsement incentives; and
- Adds Utah State University Eastern to the list of educational institutions that may partner with a school district or charter school to provide a STEM-related certification program.

#### **Intergenerational Poverty**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Department of Workforce Services on the <u>findings</u>, progress, and recommendations of the Utah Intergenerational Welfare Reform Commission. The presentation highlighted the 2015 Commission Report, which outlines policy recommendations in four key areas:

- Early childhood development;
- Education;
- · Family economic stability; and
- Health.



#### **Opportunities for Working Families**

Received a presentation from two legislators on Family Success Centers based on information gathered at the National Conference of State Legislators. These centers are designed to coordinate efforts to help families obtain critical economic security, job skills training, education, and safe housing.

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#### Utah Science, Technology, and Research Initiative

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Utah Science, Technology, and Research Initiative on potential legislation to fulfill the requirements identified in 2014 General Session <u>S.B. 62</u>, "Utah Science, Technology, and Research Authority Amendments," and as identified in two audits. The presentation identified two goals for future legislation:

- Expanding research funding to a wider pool of eligible applicants; and
- Focusing funding criteria and performance metrics to better align with the initiative's goals.

#### Volunteer Registry

Received a presentation from a legislator and a constituent on the concept of a volunteer registry that would provide a central point for organizations to determine whether an individual who wants to volunteer has had a background check. The goal of this registry is to avoid duplication of efforts and reduce costs to volunteers and community organizations.

#### **Women in the Economy Commission**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from two legislators on the findings, progress, and recommendations of the Women in the Economy Commission and discussed draft legislation "<u>Women in the Economy Commission Amendments</u>." The presentation identified research efforts undertaken by the commission and planned future efforts, including research on:

- Women in entrepreneurship and small business;
- Women in state and local government employment; and
- Economic opportunities for women in specific populations.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Women in the Economy Commission Amendments," which repeals the sunset date of the Women in the Economy Commission Act, allowing the commission to continue beyond July 1, 2016.

Chairs: Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards / Sen. Aaron Osmond Staff: Benjamin N. Christensen (Policy Analyst) / Peter Asplund (Attorney) / Debra Hale (Legislative Assistant)

#### **Education**

October 29, 2015

#### **Educator Professional Learning**

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Grants for Educator Professional Learning," which requires the State Board of Education to establish a professional learning grant program.

#### **Higher Education Performance Funding**

Received a <u>briefing</u> from the Commissioner of Higher Education about the implementation of performance funding for institutions of higher education, including the metrics used to determine funding allocations. Also received a <u>briefing</u> from the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst about performance based funding.

#### Kindergarten

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Optional Enhanced Kindergarten Amendments," which:

- Requires the State Board of Education to administer a grant program to support certain kindergarten student academic achievement programs operated by local education agencies;
- Requires the State Board of Education to develop a uniform kindergarten entry assessment to be used by participating local education agencies; and
- Recodifies and makes technical changes to provisions related to early interactive reading software.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Fees for Supplemental Hours," which provides a local education agency with the authority to charge a fee for providing supplemental hours of instruction for students enrolled in a kindergarten class.

#### **Process for Funding Higher Education Buildings**

Received a proposal from a legislator to amend the current method for funding higher education capital projects by providing an ongoing appropriation, based on a formula, to each institution of higher education to use for capital projects.

Received a <u>briefing</u> from the Utah System for Higher Education that provided information about appropriations for higher education buildings and the elements of a proposed funding formula.

**Action:** Voted to continue studying formula-based funding for higher education capital facilities.

#### **State Instructional Materials Commission**

Received <u>information</u> from the State Office of Education about the history and purpose of the State Instructional Materials Commission.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "State Instructional Materials Commission Amendments," which removes the repeal date for the State Instructional Materials Commission.

#### **Statutorily Required Reports**

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "<u>Agency Reporting Requirements</u>," which amends reporting requirements related to education.

#### Legislative Audits—Career and Technical Education

Received briefings and agency responses on the following legislative audits assigned by the Legislative Audit Subcommittee:

- "A Review of CTE Coordination and Program
   <u>Duplication Between Public Education and the Utah</u>

   College of Applied Technology"; and
- "A Performance Audit of CTE Completion and Job Placement Rates."

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#### **Charter School Funding Task Force Report**

Received a report from the Charter School Funding Task Force on:

- Statutory duties of the task force as outlined in 2015 General Session <u>H.B. 444</u>, "Charter School Funding Task Force";
- Issues the task force has discussed in 2015; and
- Potential outcomes of the task force's work.

### Optional School Readiness Programs for At-Risk Children

Received comments from the <u>Granite School District</u> and the <u>Park City School District</u> on how their respective school districts evaluate their preschool programs. Also received comments from the Utah State Office of Education on recent research regarding the longitudinal impact of preschool on student achievement. The committee provided input on a <u>draft proposal</u> to expand access to high quality school readiness programs for at-risk four year olds.

Chairs: Rep. Bradley G. Last / Sen. Ann Millner Staff: Allyson R. Goldstein (Policy Analyst) / Tiffany A. Stanley (Policy Analyst) / Tracy J. Nuttall (Attorney) / Victoria Ashby (Attorney) / Rebekah M. Bradway (Attorney) / Debra Hale (Legislative Assistant)

#### **Fair Park Working Group**

November 12, 2015

### Legislative Audit—State Fairpark Financial Oversight and Controls

Received a presentation on the audit, "A Limited Performance Audit of the Utah State Fair Corporation," prepared by the Office of the Utah State Auditor, which outlined several options for how a state fair and fairpark could be organizationally structured, and described the pros and cons of each option.

#### Days of '47 Rodeo

Discussed with a representative of the Days of '47 Rodeo the possibility of relocating the rodeo to the state fairpark. The move would require investment to construct an outdoor arena, but the arena could provide additional opportunities to secure other revenue generating events that would help make the fairpark self-sustaining.

#### Fairpark Community Council Input

Discussed with the Fairpark Community Council the council's desire that the state fair will remain at its current location, and the council's willingness to work with the state to support increased fairpark use. Working group members who represent the fairpark area echoed the council's statements and confirmed that the community members are fully supportive of the fair and, if the fairpark were improved, any additional events that may be held at the fairpark.

#### Fairpark Events, Governance, and Support

Discussed with the Utah State Fair Corporation Board its preference that the state fair remain at its current location, and the board's support for the potential partnerships with the Days of '47 Rodeo or the Salt Lake County Fair. The board suggested that if an outdoor arena is constructed, it be designed to host multiple types of events in order to maximize the financial return.

**Action:** The working group voted to:

- Recommend that the state fair remain at its current location, and that the fairpark receive necessary infrastructure improvements; and
- Meet before the 2016 General Session to consider draft legislation that would amend fairpark governance, appropriate money for improvements, and recommend that the state execute a long-term lease with the Utah State Fair Corporation.

#### **Salt Lake City Planning Efforts**

Discussed with a representative of Salt Lake City the city's support of the state fair remaining at its current location and of the enhancement of the land and buildings at the fairpark. The city also supports creative parking solutions and the renewal of the fairpark lease.

#### Salt Lake County Fair

Discussed with representatives of Salt Lake County the possibility of relocating the Salt Lake County Fair to the state fairpark. The county has begun evaluating options other than the South Jordan Equestrian Park, which is the current location of the county fair. The equestrian park is not an ideal venue for the fair, and the county would be interested in relocating to the state fairpark where necessary event infrastructure already exists.

Chairs: Rep. Mike K. McKell / Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
Staff: Megan L. Bolin (Policy Analyst) / Christine R. Gilbert (Attorney) / Lori Rammell
(Leaislative Assistant)

#### **Government Operations**

#### **Election Law Amendments**

**Action:** Amended and approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Election Law Amendments," which:

- Removes a political party's ability to replace a candidate who is disqualified for failure to file a financial disclosure; and
- Establishes a filing deadline for a local school board candidate.

#### **Election Revisions**

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "<u>Election Revisions</u>," which requires an election officer to publicly disclose the daily results of votes counted between election day and the canvass.

#### **Initiative and Referendum Amendments**

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Initiative and Referendum Amendments," which:

- Expands the types of political subdivisions whose laws are subject to initiatives and referenda;
- Makes changes to the submission process for a local initiative or referendum; and
- Removes a requirement that an initiative or referendum petition include a statement that the person signing the petition has read and understands the law to which the petition relates.



#### Legislative Audit—Office of the Attorney General

Reviewed the Office of the Legislative Auditor General's recommendations in "<u>A Performance Audit of the Office of</u> the Utah Attorney General."

**Action:** Voted to:

- Recognize that a bill file has been opened to address the audit's findings; and
- Direct the chairs to submit a written report of the committee's actions to the Legislative Audit Subcommittee.

#### **Referendum Amendments**

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Referendum Amendments," which changes the timeline regarding when individuals may apply for and submit a referendum petition.

#### **Unmanned Aircraft Amendments**

Reviewed draft legislation "<u>Unmanned Aircraft</u>
<u>Amendments</u>," which regulates the use of unmanned aircraft, including:

- The establishment of criminal penalties for using an unmanned aircraft to commit voyeurism, trespass, or to violate an individual's privacy;
- A prohibition on the use of unmanned aircraft in certain areas; and
- Provisions to establish a temporary flight restriction in an emergency.

Chairs: Rep. Jack R. Draxler / Sen. Margaret Dayton Staff: Brian J. Bean (Policy Analyst) / Thomas R. Vaughn (Attorney) / Katie LeFevre (Leaislative Assistant)

#### **Health and Human Services**

#### Services for Utah's Seniors

Received a report on 2016 General Session draft legislation that would create consumer protection <u>regulations</u> for residents of continuing care retirement communities.

Received a <u>report</u> from the Utah Foundation that from now until 2030, an additional \$367,000 to \$548,000 will be required annually to fund some of the most critical services provided to Utah seniors, including nutrition programs, caregiver services, and transportation.

Received the Utah Commission on Aging's annual report.

Action: Voted to inform the Legislative Management Committee that the committee has concluded that significant issues exist regarding services to the elderly, but more time is needed to develop solutions and consensus, and that legislation regulating continuing care retirement communities is likely to be introduced during the 2016 General Session.

#### **Medicaid Preferred Drug List**

Considered draft legislation "Medicaid Preferred Drug List Amendments."

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Medicaid Preferred Drug List Amendments," which authorizes the state's Medicaid program to include all classes of psychotropic drugs on a preferred drug list. The draft legislation also earmarks 40% of related savings annually for appropriations to the Department of Human Services.

#### Medical Marijuana

Received updates from the sponsors of two proposals to authorize the use of marijuana for medical purposes. One proposal creates a regulatory structure to permit whole plant use. The other proposal creates a regulatory structure to permit expanded use of cannabidiol, a marijuana extract.

**Action:** Amended and approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Medical Cannabidiol Amendments," which creates a regulatory structure to permit expanded use of cannabidiol.

#### **Statutorily Required Reports**

Considered whether to amend or repeal <u>statutory provisions</u> requiring reports on health and human services issues.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Repeal of Health and Human Services Reports and Programs," which repeals or amends several statutory reporting requirements related to health and human services.

#### Sunset Review—Hospital Provider Assessment Act

Considered whether to reauthorize <u>Title 26</u>, <u>Chapter 36A</u>, <u>Hospital Provider Assessment Act</u>, which is <u>supported</u> by the Utah Hospital Association as a means of increasing Medicaid payments for hospital services.

Action: Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation
"Reauthorization of Hospital Provider Assessment Act," which
extends the sunset date for <u>Title 26</u>, <u>Chapter 36A</u>, <u>Hospital</u>
Provider Assessment Act, by three years and makes
amendments to the act.

### Sunset Reviews—Hemp Extract Registration Act and

Exemption for Use or Possession of Hemp Extract

Conducted a <u>sunset review</u> of <u>Title 26</u>, <u>Chapter 56</u>, <u>Hemp Extract Registration Act</u>, and Utah Code <u>Section 58-37-4.3</u>, Exemption for Use or Possession of Hemp Extract. Considered information from the <u>Utah Department of Health</u>, <u>epilepsy associations</u>, and others.

**Action:** Amended and approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Hemp Extract Amendments," which extends the sunset date for both statutes by five years and reduces the minimum cannabidiol content for hemp extract from 15% to 5%.

#### Third-Party Medical Liability

Considered draft legislation "Nonpatient Cause of Action."

Action: Voted to inform the Legislative Management Committee that the committee has concluded that significant issues are addressed by draft legislation "Nonpatient Cause of Action," which specifies the elements a nonpatient plaintiff must satisfy to establish a malpractice action against a health care provider, but more time is needed to develop solutions and consensus.

Chairs: Rep. Kay L. McIff / Sen. Evan J. Vickers Staff: Gregg A. Girvan (Policy Analyst) / Mark D. Andrews (Policy Analyst) / Cathy J. Dupont (Attorney) / Lee A. Killian (Attorney) / Lori Rammell (Leaislative Assistant)

#### **Judiciary**

#### **Alimony Amendments**

Received draft legislation "Alimony Amendments," which provides that a court consider whether a parent has lost workplace opportunities while caring for a child in determining alimony.

#### Asset Forfeiture Revisions

Action: Approved as a committee bill, "Civil Asset Forfeiture - Procedural Reforms," which amends the Forfeiture and Disposition of Property Act by requiring a direct nexus of the property subject to forfeiture to a specific alleged criminal exchange or transaction, and providing that the proceeds from civil forfeiture actions be placed in the Uniform School Fund.

#### **DUI Statutory Report**

Received a statutorily required <u>report</u> on DUI-related statistics from the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice.

#### Guardianship of Disabled Adults

Received draft legislation "Disabled Adult Guardianship Amendments," which incorporates changes suggested by committee members during the October interim meeting. The changes include allowing the disabled individual to have a minimum level of assets and still qualify to waive the requirement for counsel in guardianship proceedings, so long as the petitioner for guardianship is the individual's biological or adoptive parent. The draft legislation also gives the court discretion as to whether counsel can be waived in these proceedings.

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#### **Religious Liberty**

Received a presentation on religious liberty and the need to pursue further protections for the constitutional right to free exercise of religion in the upcoming 2016 General Session.

#### Summons and Arrests

Discussed due process issues that arise when an individual receives a warrant for arrest rather than a summons. The Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office described the process of issuing arrest warrants and answered questions from the committee.

#### Sunset Review—Alternative Dispute Resolution Act

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Alternative Dispute Resolution Sunset Date Amendment," which extends the Alternative Dispute Resolution Act for 10 years.

Chairs: Rep. LaVar Christensen / Sen. Mark B. Madsen Staff: Gregg A. Girvan (Policy Analyst) / Esther Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Lucy W. Daynes (Legislative Assistant)

#### **Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice**

### Implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative

Received presentations from the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, the <u>Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health</u>, the <u>Utah Department of Corrections</u>, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Utah Sheriff's Association, the <u>Sentencing Commission</u>, and the Board of Pardons and Parole. The committee discussed how 2015 General Session <u>H.B. 348</u>, referred to as the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, is being implemented by the various stakeholders and the challenges of implementation.

#### **Law Enforcement Training**

Received a presentation from a business regarding social and emotional skills development training for law enforcement officers. Current training for most law enforcement officers focuses on professional skills, and tactical and technical training. The presenters focused on the lack of evaluation of social and emotional skills and training in this area provided to law enforcement officers.

#### Offender Registry Amendments

**Action:** Amended and approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "<u>Offender Registry Amendments</u>," which includes the class A misdemeanor violations of enticing a minor and voyeurism as offenses for which an offender may apply to be removed from the sex and kidnap offender registry after five years.

Chairs: Rep. Don L. Ipson / Sen. Todd Weiler Staff: Nathan W. Brady (Policy Analyst) / Susan Creager Allred (Attorney) / Lori Rammell (Legislative Assistant)

#### **Legislative Management Committee**

November 17, 2015

**Action:** Approved requests from the Health Reform Task Force and Health and Human Services Interim Committee.

**Action:** Voted to recommend approval of two settlement offers involving the state risk pool.

Chairs: President Wayne L. Niederhauser / Speaker Gregory H. Hughes Staff: Bryant R. Howe (Director) / John L. Fellows (General Counsel) / Denise L. Udy (Administrative Assistant)



# Native American Legislative Liaison Committee

November 10, 2015

## American Indian and Alaskan Native Education State Plan

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "American Indian and Alaskan Native Amendments," which amends provisions related to the state system of public education and American Indians and Alaskan Natives.

#### American Indian and Native Alaskan Health

Received the annual report from the Utah Department of Health's American Indian and Alaskan Native Health Liaison. The report highlighted the activities of the liaison to improve the availability and accessibility of quality health care for Utah's American Indians and Alaskan Natives.

#### **Native American Teacher Training**

Received a committee staff <u>report</u> on American Indian Teacher Training Programs sponsored by the federal government and by state and local governments in other states.

#### **Navajo Trust Fund**

Received the <u>annual report</u> of the Utah Navajo Trust Fund, which summarizes the revenue received into and the expenditures made from the trust fund.

#### Division of Indian Affairs—Report

Received the <u>annual report</u> of the Utah Division of Indian Affairs. The division is a liaison between state government and Utah's eight American Indian tribes.

Action: The committee adopted a motion encouraging each committee member to fully participate in the 2016 Native American Caucus Day held in conjunction with the 2016 General Session and to allow a caucus participant to shadow a committee member that day.

#### **Uintah Basin and Navajo Revitalization Funds**

Received two reports (Navajo Revitalization Fund report and Uintah Basin Revitalization Fund report) from the Department of Workforce Services summarizing last fiscal year's revenue and expenditures of the Uintah Basin and Navajo Revitalization Funds, which support capital investment and housing projects benefitting members of the Navajo Nation living in Utah and members of the Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation.

Chairs: Rep. Jack R. Draxler / Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell Staff: Bryant R. Howe (Deputy Director) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Joshua M. Weber (Legislative Assistant)

## Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

#### **Bonneville Salt Flats**

Reviewed how deteriorating conditions at the <u>Bonneville Salt Flats</u> affect land speed racing. Discussed ways to implement restoration and reclamation programs to protect and restore the Salt Flats to high-speed racing conditions.

#### Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands

Received a <u>report</u> from the Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands on the activities of the commission in 2015.

#### Low NOx Natural Gas-Fired Water Heaters

<u>Discussed</u> a Division of Air Quality <u>administrative rule</u> requiring the installation of low NOx gas-fired water heaters.

#### **Water Conservation Pricing**

Discussed draft legislation "Water System Conservation Pricing," which requires retail water providers to establish an increasing rate structure for culinary water and to provide rate and usage information to customers.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Water System Conservation Pricing," which requires retail water providers to establish an increasing rate structure for culinary water and to provide rate and usage information to customers.

#### **Water Funding**

Discussed draft legislation "<u>Water Funding Revisions</u>" and draft legislation "<u>Infrastructure Funding Amendments</u>," which both address the funding of water infrastructure. The drafts provide that certain sales and use tax revenue that has been deposited

#### INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS • November 2015

in the Transportation Fund would be deposited in the Water Infrastructure Restricted Account.

#### **Water System Metering**

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft resolution "Concurrent Resolution Encouraging Universal Metering of Water Systems," which encourages public water suppliers to implement universal metering on all retail public and private water systems.

#### Wildland Fire

Received a <u>report</u> and viewed a <u>video</u> from the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands on the creation of a comprehensive <u>policy</u> for Utah wildland fire prevention, preparedness, and suppression.

Chairs: Rep. Lee B. Perry / Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Staff: J Brian Allred (Policy Analyst) / RuthAnne Frost (Attorney) / Katie LeFevre (Legislative
Assistant)

#### **Political Subdivisions**

#### **Community Development and Renewal Agencies**

Discussed draft legislation, "Community Development and Renewal Agency Act Amendments," which makes amendments to Title 17C, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Community Development and Renewal Agencies Act, including enacting a chapter that creates community reinvestment project areas.

**Action:** The committee voted to support the sponsors' continued efforts to finalize the draft legislation for the 2016 General Session.

#### **Good Landlord Program**

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Good Landlord Program Amendments," which prohibits a municipality from requiring a landlord to provide certain information about a tenant, and addresses issues regarding residential landlords who own multiple properties.

#### **Historic Districts**

Received an update from a legislator on historic districts that are being addressed at the local level, noting that legislation is not needed as long as there is a continued commitment among the stakeholders to resolve issues.

**Action:** Voted to conclude that this historic district issue does not require legislation.

#### **Land Information Records**

Received an update from the Wasatch Front Regional Council regarding progress toward addressing the availability and consistency of assessor and recorder data to encourage economic development and improve local and regional planning efforts. The committee was informed that legislation is not currently being sought to address the issue. The committee expressed support for continued efforts to find a voluntary solution among the stakeholders.

#### **Municipal and County Code Enforcement**

Received an update from a legislator regarding concerns with municipal and county code enforcement processes.

**Action:** Voted to conclude that this municipal and county code enforcement issue does not require legislation.

#### **Subdivision Base Parcel Tax Amendments**

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Subdivision Base Parcel Tax Amendments," which:

- Addresses the payment of property tax on a base parcel that is subdivided into one or more parcels;
- Modifies requirements for a notice of property tax delinquency; and
- Describes the procedure by which the owner of a subdivided lot whose base parcel's property tax is delinquent may redeem the owner's portion of the base parcel.

Chairs: Rep. R. Curt Webb / Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher
Staff: Megan L. Bolin (Policy Analyst) / Christine R. Gilbert (Attorney) / Joshua M. Weber
(Legislative Assistant)

#### **Prison Development Commission**

November 05, 2015

#### **Project Delivery Method**

Received input from construction industry experts and others on whether design-build or construction manager/general contractor is the best delivery method for the construction of a new Utah State Correctional Facility.

Action: Adopted as committee recommendations, "Prison Development Commission Recommendations to the Division of Facilities Construction and Management Regarding the Development of a New Correctional Facility," which recommends principles that the Division of Facilities Construction and Management should consider in choosing a project delivery method for the construction of a new Utah State Correctional Facility.

Chairs: Rep. Brad R. Wilson / Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson

Staff: Brian J. Bean (Policy Analyst) / Bryant R. Howe (Deputy Director) / Robert H. Rees

(Attorney) / Bree Frehner (Legislative Assistant)

### **Public Utilities and Technology**

#### **Public Utility Electric Power and Regulation**

Received a presentation from Energy Strategies about the effects of regulatory and rate change proposals by Rocky Mountain Power in its sustainable transportation and energy plan. The presentation provided information about how the plan could lead to increased utility rates for all ratepayers to cover the cost of nonenergy-related programs.

#### Renewable Energy

Received presentations from a legislator, Utah Clean Energy, and Beaver County regarding Utah's clean energy generation potential, current uses and demands for clean energy,

#### INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS • November 2015

integration with the existing grid, and decreasing costs. Beaver County has five alternative energy providers, including wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, and hydro, that provide a substantial part of the electric energy used in the county.

#### Single Sign-On Business Database

Received an update from a legislator on changes made to draft legislation "Single Sign-On Business Database." Changes include a timeline and benchmarks for government entities to follow in studying the creation of a proposed statewide secure business database.



#### **Utah Communications Agency**

Received a presentation and update from the Utah Communication Authority about its request for information regarding the creation of a statewide public safety communications network. The presentation included information about the request for information and request for proposals timelines, meetings with vendors, and stakeholder input. The request for proposals is scheduled for January 8, 2016. Telecommunication vendors commented on the process and concerns about single-source backbone network providers and technologies such as fiber.

#### **Sustainable Energy Plan**

Received a presentation from Rocky Mountain Power about its program to prepare for the future provision of electric energy, how it will be paid for including additional charges to ratepayers, the positive impact on environmental conditions, and Utah's maintaining its competitiveness for attracting business. The Public Service Commission is currently in the process of reviewing Rocky Mountain Power's proposals.

Chairs: Rep. Ken Ivory / Sen. David P. Hinkins Staff: Richard C. North (Policy Analyst) / Samuel C. Johnston (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Legislative Assistant)

#### Retirement and Independent Entities

November 10, 2015

### Department of Human Resource Management Rate Committee

Received a presentation from the Department of Human Resource Management on proposed draft legislation "<u>Human Resource Management Rate Committee</u>."

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "<u>Human Resource Management Rate Committee</u>," which modifies the membership of the committee.

#### **Firefighters' Retirement Proposal**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Professional Firefighters of Utah regarding restoring firefighters to a Tier I retirement for all years of service going forward. Earned Tier II benefits would remain unchanged.

#### Performance Audit of Utah Retirement Systems Management and Investment Practices

Received a <u>report</u> from committee staff and Utah Retirement Systems (URS) on legislative audit recommendations. Of the seven audit recommendations made by the Legislative Auditor General earlier this year, three are included in draft legislation "<u>Retirement Systems Audit Recommendation</u> <u>Amendments</u>." The URS will implement the remaining four recommendations administratively.

Action: Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Retirement Systems Audit Recommendation
Amendments," which requires URS to:

- Provide employee compensation information on its website;
- Provide advance public notice of administrative board meetings; and
- Establish policies for time limits on responding to information requests.

#### **Phased Retirement**

Received a presentation from URS representatives on proposed draft legislation "Phased Retirement." The proposal is an alternative to traditional postretirement employment restrictions.

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**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Phased Retirement," which allows a retiree to retire in place under an agreement to work half-time and receive half of the normal retirement allowance.

#### **Postretirement Reemployment Restrictions**

Received a <u>presentation</u> by committee staff on the background and recommendations of the Retirement Working Group, including the following documents:

- The Population of Utah Municipalities;
- The Population of Utah Counties;
- Retirement Working Group 2015 Report;
- Utah Postretirement Reemployment Restrictions;
- <u>Changes to Key Utah Post-Retirement Reemployment</u>
   Provisions;
- GRS Working Retiree Analysis; and
- <u>Postretirement Reemployment Potential Changes -</u>
   <u>Preliminary Actuarial Analysis.</u>

The working group recommended that the committee consider the draft legislation" Postretirement Employment Restrictions," which for a 60-day only separation prior to reemployment for all URS system retirees.

Action: Approved as committee bills:

- 1) Draft legislation "Postretirement Employment Exceptions," which provides for a 60-day only separation after retirement for public safety employees, firefighters, and educators.
- 2) Draft legislation "Postretirement Employment Rural and Title I School Exceptions," which provides for a 60day only separation after retirement for reemployment in a rural county, small city or town, or a Title I school.
- 3) "Postretirement Reemployment Amendments," which provides for an increase in the annual earnings limitation for those retirees reemployed after 60 days, but before 12 months, from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

#### **Postretirement Reemployment Provisions**

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Recodification of Postretirement Reemployment Provisions," which recodifies postretirement statutes and clarifies amortization rate payments for certain reemployed retirees.

#### **Utah Retirement Systems Funded Status**

Received a presentation (part one and part two) from URS on the funded status of URS, which is reflected in the funded ratio, actuarial value of assets, market value of assets, actuarial accrued liability, unfunded actuarial accrued liability, and net pension liability. URS also explained implementation of Governmental Accounting Standards Board, Statement Number 67, "Financial Reporting for Pension Plans" and Statement Number 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions."

#### **Utah Retirement Systems Amendments**

Received a presentation from URS on recommended statute changes to keep the <u>Utah State Retirement and Insurance</u> <u>Benefit Act</u> updated.



**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Retirement Systems Amendments," which:

- Clarifies reporting provisions;
- Addresses payment to beneficiaries;
- Amends the definition of final average salary;
- Addresses public safety employee transfers to administrative positions;
- Clarifies four-year vesting for Tier II employees; and
- Amends accrued earnings provisions for the unused sick leave Program II.

#### **Utah Retirement Systems Benefit Claims**

Received a presentation from URS on proposed draft legislation "Retirement and Insurance Benefit Claims Limits." As URS administers retirement, disability, and health benefits, occasionally errors are discovered and claim disputes arise.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Retirement and Insurance Benefit Claims Limits," which addresses the statutory time limits for employers and employees to bring benefit claims in order to resolve potential disputes in a timely manner.

Chairs: Rep. Kraig Powell / Sen. Todd Weiler Staff: Benjamin N. Christensen (Policy Analyst) / Peter Asplund (Attorney) / Shannon C. Halverson (Attorney) / Katie LeFevre (Legislative Assistant)

#### **Revenue and Taxation**

## Corporate and Franchise Income Taxes—Single Sales Factor Apportionment

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Corporate Franchise and Income Tax Changes," which addresses the apportionment of business income to the state for purposes of corporate franchise and income taxes by establishing an electable single sales factor.

#### **Interim Study Items**

**Action:** Approved a <u>review</u> of committee study items that were approved by the Legislative Management Committee.

#### **New Growth and Centrally Assessed Property**

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Property Tax Changes," which modifies the calculation of certain property tax rates.

#### Pass-Through Entity Return Filing Date

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Pass -Through Entity Return Filing Date," which modifies the date for a pass-through entity to file a tax return.

#### **Privilege Tax Amendments**

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Privilege Tax Amendments," which defines exclusive possession for purposes of the privilege tax.

#### Sales and Use Tax Earmarks

Received a <u>report</u> from the Utah Tax Review Commission on a review the commission conducted regarding earmarks to the state sales and use tax, particularly the earmarks related to water and transportation. The commission's recommendations included <u>repealing certain earmarks to the state sales and use tax</u>.

#### **Tax Commission Amendments**

Discussed draft legislation "Tax Commission Amendments," which authorizes the State Tax Commission to hold a meeting that is not open to the public in order to provide guidance to its divisions on the interpretation and application of the tax laws of the state.

Chairs: Rep. Daniel McCay / Sen. Deidre M. Henderson
Staff: Bryant R. Howe (Deputy Director) / Leif G. Elder (Policy Analyst) / Andrea Valenti
Arthur (Attorney) / Bree Frehner (Legislative Assistant)

#### **State Water Development Commission**

November 17, 2015

#### **Colorado River Study**

Discussed a proposal that the National Research Council conduct a scientific and economic review of Colorado River management needs and options that provide for the sustainable management of the Colorado River.

### **Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Rule**

Received a report from the Office of the Utah Attorney General on the status of lawsuits associated with the Environmental Protection Agency's "Waters of the United States" ruling.



#### **Gold King Mine Toxic Spill**

Received an <u>update</u> from the Office of the Utah Attorney General on the causes and impacts of the <u>Gold King Mine spill</u>. The commission discussed efforts to obtain payment from the Environmental Protection Agency for costs associated with the spill that were incurred by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality.

#### **Water Rights Adjudication Amendments**

Discussed draft legislation "Water Rights Adjudication Amendments," which modifies the procedure for adjudicating water rights.

Chairs: Rep. Keith Grover / Sen. Margaret Dayton Staff: J Brian Allred (Policy Analyst) / RuthAnne Frost (Attorney) / Katie LeFevre (Legislative Assistant)

#### **Transportation**

#### **Cancellation of Auto Insurance Coverage**

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Cancellation of Auto Insurance Coverage," which:

- Prohibits continued automatic charges after an insured person cancels an auto insurance policy;
- Prohibits reinstatement of a cancelled policy without the consent of the insured; and
- Provides a penalty for violators.

#### Class B and Class C Road Fund Amendments

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "Class B and Class C Road Fund Amendments," which amends the apportionment formula for funds that can be used for class B and class C roads.

## County Option Sales and Use Tax for Highways and Public Transit Amendments

Discussed draft legislation "County Option Sales and Use Tax for Highways and Public Transit Amendments," which would amend the distribution of revenue collected from the local option sales and use tax for highways and public transit. The committee encouraged the sponsor to bring the bill for consideration during the 2016 General Session.

#### State Highway System

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "State Highway System Amendments," which amends the state highway system by modifying the descriptions of SR-48, SR-107, and SR-209.

#### **Unconventional Vehicles**

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "<u>Unconventional Vehicle Amendments</u>," which defines an autocycle and defines the safety equipment and requirements for operating an autocycle.

#### **Unified Plan Funding Upate**

Received a presentation from the Department of Transportation, the Utah Transit Authority, and Utah's Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Updates were given on the impact of the passage of <u>H.B. 362</u>, "Transportation Infrastructure Funding," and voter response to Proposition 1 regarding a local option sales tax to fund transportation.

Chairs: Rep. Johnny Anderson / Sen. Alvin B. Jackson Staff: Art L. Hunsaker (Policy Analyst) / Kurt P. Gasser (Attorney) / Shannon C. Halverson (Attorney) / Joshua M. Weber (Legislative Assistant)

#### **Utah Tax Review Commission**

November 05, 2015

#### **Earmarking of the State Sales and Use Tax**

**Action:** The Utah Tax Review Commission (TRC) adopted the following recommendations:

1) In nearly all cases, the TRC opposes earmarks to the state sales and use tax.

#### INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS • November 2015

- 2) In reviewing a proposed or existing earmark, the TRC recommends that decision makers consider whether the government activity funded by the earmark is of sufficient importance that revenue certainty and budget predictability outweigh all other considerations.
- 3) The TRC recommends that a proposal to fund a state program through a sales and use tax earmark be reviewed by the Revenue and Taxation Standing Committees in the House and Senate. The TRC recommends that the Legislature adopt appropriate rule changes to assure that the earmark funding mechanism receives review and recommendation by the Revenue and Taxation Standing Committees.
- 4) The TRC recommends that the Executive Appropriations Committee, when adopting revenue estimates for a new fiscal year, not consider the revenue from an earmark that is scheduled to be repealed during that new fiscal year to be available as unrestricted revenue and available for appropriation by the Legislature.
- 5) The TRC recommends that the earmarks to the state sales and use tax listed <a href="here">here</a> be repealed effective July 1, 2016. In making this recommendation, the TRC makes no recommendation on whether or not the Legislature should continue to fund in some other way the programs now funded by an earmark. The TRC recommendation concerns only the appropriateness of using revenue from a sales and use tax earmark.

Chair: Mr. Curtis Trader

Staff: Bryant R. Howe (Deputy Director) / Leif G. Elder (Policy Analyst) / Andrea Valenti Arthur (Attorney) / Bree Frehner (Legislative Assistant)

### **Veterans' and Military Affairs Commission**

October 23, 2015

#### **Definition of Veterans—Impact Study**

Received a presentation from the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs about the statutory impacts of the 2015 amended definition of a veteran, as amended in 2015 General Session H.B. 36 "Veterans Definition."

**Action:** Voted to direct staff to prepare legislation addressing the impacts of the amended definition of veteran for the December 18, 2015, commission meeting.

#### **Equine-Assisted Therapy for Veterans**

Received presentations from Utah State University about the creation of an undergraduate and graduate level program for training therapists to treat veterans using an equine-based modality.

#### Military Retirement Pay and State Income Taxes

Received a presentation from a retired navy captain, and supportive comments from a retired admiral, about the value of tax exemptions for retired military personnel and the economic development benefits to states that provide this tax relief.

#### **Payday Lending**

Received a presentation from a legislator about the payday lending process, how it can negatively affect veterans and others, and the significant increase in Utah courts' debt default caseload as demonstrated over the last 10 years.



#### **Personalized Veteran License Plates**

Received a presentation from the commission's working group on personalized veterans license plates regarding which United States Department of Defense awards may be included on a veteran's license plate. The working group recommended:

- Military campaign ribbons from World War II forward to the current campaigns;
- Combat Infantry Badges;
- Combat Action Badges;
- · Combat Action Ribbons; and
- Specific combat awards, including the Bronze Star,
   Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Medal of Honor.

**Action:** Voted to direct staff to draft legislation authorizing certain military campaigns and awards to be made available on a veteran's personalized motor vehicle license plate.

#### **Social Services for Homeless Veterans**

Received a presentation from a legislator, the Road Home, and Salt Lake County about current social service outreach programs for homeless veterans.

#### INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS • November 2015

### Tuition Assistance for Utah National Guard and Reserves

Received a presentation from a commission member about the need for tuition waivers for Utah residents who are active members of the Utah National Guard. Members of the National Guard who have multiple deployments have had to leave school for uncertain periods of time and have been prevented from efficiently using their educational benefits to complete a college degree.

**Action:** Voted to direct staff to draft legislation concerning tuition assistance for Utah National Guard and Reserves.

#### **Veteran Peer Support Program**

Received a presentation from the Salt Lake Veterans Affairs Medical Center regarding the United States Veterans Administration's Battle Buddy program for providing peer support to veterans who are re-integrating into society. Currently, the program provides free training for volunteers providing peer support, but the center is requesting financial support to create a paid peer Battle Buddy program. Ongoing research on peer support demonstrates its effectiveness in reducing suicides among military and veterans.

(Continued next column)

### Veterans Nursing Homes and Parks—Advisory Boards

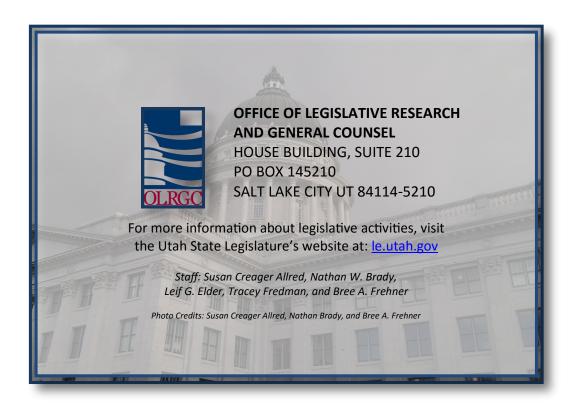
Received draft legislation that amends the appointment process to serve on Veterans' Park and Nursing Home Boards. The executive director of the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs will replace the governor as the appointing authority.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill, draft legislation "<u>Veterans Affairs Amendments</u>," which amends the veterans' nursing homes and parks boards' appointing authority.

Chairs: Rep. Paul Ray / Sen. Peter C. Knudson Staff: Richard C. North (Policy Analyst) / Esther Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Legislative Assistant)

The 2016 General Session begins on

Monday, January 25, 2015.



INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 2015

# Draft Legislation Recommended by Legislative Committees for the 2016 General Session

#### Administrative Rule Review Committee

State Liability Protection for School Employees

#### **Business and Labor Interim Committee**

- Alcoholic Beverage Event Permit Amendments
- <u>Business and Labor Interim Committee Report</u> Amendments
- Department of Commerce Boards, Committees, and Commissions Concurrence Amendments
- Fire Prevention Board Membership Amendments
- Foreclosure of Residential Rental Property
- Insurance Revisions
- Worker Classification Coordinated Enforcement Act Sunset Amendments
- Occupational Safety and Health Amendments
- Occupational and Professional Licensure Review Committee Amendments
- Passenger Carrier Requirements

#### **Charter School Funding Task Force**

School Funding Amendments

### Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee

- Business Resource Centers Amendments
- <u>Economic Development Tax Increment Financing</u> <u>Amendments</u>
- Enterprise Zone Amendments
- STEM Program Amendments
- Office of Outdoor Recreation Amendments
- Utah Housing Corporation Sunset Extension
- Women in the Economy Commission Amendments

#### **Education Interim Committee**

- Agency Reporting Requirements
- Fees for Supplemental Hours
- Grants for Educator Professional Learning
- Optional Enhanced Kindergarten Amendments
- <u>State Instructional Materials Commission</u> <u>Amendments</u>

#### **Government Operations Interim Committee**

- Absentee Ballot Amendments
- Ballot Amendments
- Election Law Amendments
- Election Notice Amendments
- Election Revisions
- Initiative and Referendum Amendments
- Referendum Amendments
- School District Participation in Risk Management Fund
- State Facility Energy Efficiency Fund Amendments

#### Health and Human Services Interim Committee

- Hemp Extract Amendments
- Medicaid Preferred Drug List Amendments
- <u>Reauthorization of Hospital Provider</u> Assessment Act
- <u>Repeal of Health and Human Services Reports</u> and <u>Programs</u>

#### Health Reform Task Force

Medicaid Coverage for Adult Dental Services

#### **Judiciary Interim Committee**

- <u>Alternative Dispute Resolution Sunset Date</u>
   <u>Amendment</u>
- Civil Asset Forfeiture Procedural Reforms
- Expungement Amendments

## Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee

- Disaster Recovery for Local Governments
- Emergency Services Account Loan Amendments
- <u>Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice</u> <u>Statutory Reports Repeal</u>
- Offender Registry Amendments

#### **Native American Legislative Liaison Committee**

- American Indian and Alaskan Native Amendments
- <u>Concurrent Resolution Supporting American</u> Indian and Alaskan Native Education State Plan

\*\*The list of legislation recommended by legislative committees, task forces, and commissions for the 2016 General Session is current to December 29, 2015.\*\*

INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 2015

# Draft Legislation Recommended by Legislative Committees for the 2016 General Session

### Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee

- <u>Concurrent Resolution Encouraging Universal</u>
   <u>Metering of Water Systems</u>
- <u>Lead Acid Battery Disposal Sunset</u> <u>Reauthorization</u>
- Water System Conservation Pricing

### Occupational and Professional Licensure Review Committee

 Occupational and Professional Licensure Review Committee Amendments

#### **Political Subdivisions Interim Committee**

- Assessment Area Foreclosure Amendments
- Good Landlord Program Amendments
- Sewer Lateral Disclosures
- Subdivision Base Parcel Tax Amendments

### Retirement and Independent Entities Interim Committee

- Domestic Relations Retirement Shares
- Human Resource Management Rate Committee
- Phased Retirement
- Postretirement Employment Exceptions
- <u>Postretirement Employment Rural and Title I</u>
   School Exceptions
- Postretirement Reemployment Amendments
- <u>Recodification of Postretirement Reemployment</u>
   <u>Provisions</u>
- Retirement and Insurance Benefit Claims Limits
- Retirement Systems Amendments
- <u>Retirement Systems Audit Recommendations</u>
   <u>Amendments</u>

#### **Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee**

- Apportionment of Business Income Amendments
- Aeronautics Restricted Account Amendments
- <u>Concurrent Resolution in Support of Sales and</u> Use Tax Transactional Equity
- Corporate Franchise and Income Tax Changes
- Pass-Through Entity Return Filing Date
- Privilege Tax Amendments
- Property Tax Changes
- Revenue and Taxation Amendments
- <u>Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee</u> <u>Report Amendments</u>
- Tax Commission Levy Process
- Tax Credit Amendments

#### **State Water Development Commission**

• Water Law - Protected Purchaser Amendments

#### **Transportation Interim Committee**

- Cancellation of Auto Insurance Coverage
- Class B and Class C Road Fund Amendments
- State Highway System Amendments
- <u>Transportation Interim Committee Reports</u> <u>Amendments</u>
- Unconventional Vehicle Amendments

#### **Veterans' and Military Affairs Commission**

- Workforce Services Job Listings Amendments
- Veterans Affairs Amendments
- State Armory Board Amendments
- Veteran License Plates Amendments