MEMORANDUM FOR EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FROM: Brian Wikle, Analyst
DATE: July 5, 2016
SUBJECT: Utah State Fair Corporation and S.B. 173

The 2016 Legislature passed Senate Bill 173, “State Fair Park Revisions,” that changed the composition of the Utah State Fair Corporation’s board of directors. The director of the Division of Facilities Construction and Management and the commissioner of agriculture (or their designees) will continue to serve on the board. Previously, the governor appointed the other 11 board members. The governor will now appoint only four members – two who represent agriculture interests (as before) and two who have business related experience. In place of the seven members previously appointed by the governor, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House will now each appoint two members, the mayor of Salt Lake City will appoint one member, one member will represent Salt Lake County, and one member will represent the Days of ’47 Rodeo.

S.B. 173 provided that the corporation operate and maintain the state fair park and prepare an economic development plan for the park, and it authorized the corporation to enter agreements to develop the park and issue revenue bonds.

At the July meeting of the Executive Appropriations Committee the corporation will summarize changes to the board of directors, it will report its progress on the economic development plan, and it will discuss possible long-term leases and bond issuance.