

2017 Interim Study Items

April 11, 2017

Executive Appropriations

1. Whether to allow the Business and Economic Development and Labor Appropriations Subcommittee to create a committee to hear Heritage and Arts requests prior to the session, and allow that committee to rank requests and present the requests to the committee. (**Sandall**)
2. Use the Interim to consider appropriations in depth – we should look at programs that should be eliminated or reduced; consider accounting improvements that include costs of materials, labor, equipment, overhead, depreciation, and any other cost to the agency; and look for cost savings to reduce our tax requirements. (**Christofferson**)

Business and Labor

1. Heavy beers (over 3.2) sold in Utah (**Stevenson**)
2. Analysis of potential wage gap (S.B. 210, **Anderegg**)
3. Bail bond modifications (H.B. 260, **Redd**)
4. HOA conversion from developer board control to homeowner board control
5. Extending benefit corporations to LLCs (**Weiler**)
6. On-premise signage within a comprehensive development (2nd Sub H.B. 356, **McKell**)
7. Workplace Discrimination Amendments (H.B. 213, **Wheatley**)
8. Occupational licensing (H.B. 331, **Thurston**)
9. Mold abatement and remediation for rentals as part of renter agreements (**Anderegg**)
10. Worker safety on the job (**Mayne**)
11. Ticket Resale Fraud
12. Wages including S.B. 221, Strategic Plan for Equal Compensation

Education

1. Statewide goals and outcome metrics for education from preschool through advanced degrees and careers (P-20), including hearing a report on the Governor's 10-year plan and making recommendations
2. Teacher compensation

3. Innovative funding models and local decision making, including block grant funding, competency-based education, and exemptions to statewide requirements
4. Accountability – report from State Board of Education on a criteria-based rating system for schools and a school performance dashboard, as required in 2017 S.B. 220
5. School leader (principal) preparation and development
6. Use of technology in schools, including the Digital Teaching and Learning Grant Program
7. Recodification of the public education code

Economic Development and Workforce Services

1. Intergenerational poverty
 - a. Opportunities for collecting and studying new data to provide insights and policy recommendations
2. State Economic Development Strategy
 - a. Economic development tax incentive evaluation methods
 - b. Non-tax credit economic development factors and incentives
3. Point of the Mountain Development Commission
 - a. Receive update on progress
4. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grants
5. Affordable Housing
 - a. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)/Down payment assistance
 - b. Transit oriented development
 - c. Landlord reimbursement program
 - d. Community Reinvestment Agency set-asides for affordable housing
6. Economic impact of workforce policies
7. Viability of raising the minimum wage in Utah (H.B. 14)

Government Operations

1. Nonpartisan candidate replacement (H.B. 372) (**Arent**)
2. Election Contests.
3. National popular vote. (**Peterson**)
4. Election law cleanup.
5. Poll watchers.
6. Voter participation. (H.B. 349 & H.B. 204) (**Chavez-Houck, Arent**)
7. Campaign finance review.
8. Political activities of public entities. (H.B.20) (**Daw**)
9. Review DFCM administration. (**Harper**)
10. Independent Entities. (**Harper**)
11. Public official recording. (**Stephenson**)
12. Governmental immunity.
13. Boards and Commissions. (H.B.11)

14. Unclaimed property. (S.B.175) (**Hillyard**)
15. Public Private Partnerships. (**Okerlund**)
16. Code simplification. (**Stanard**)
17. Required reports review. (**Harper**)
18. Study of Authorized Legislative Meetings item 7 and report to LMC

Health and Human Services

1. Opioids
 - a. Controlled substance database – drill down the data.
 - i. Relationship between database use and prescriber behavior.
 - ii. Identification of the real problem.
 - iii. Etc.
2. Cannabis
 - a. Department of Health review of available research.
 - b. IRB approved research in Utah.
3. Mental illness
 - a. Connection between mental illness and homelessness.
 - b. Spending on serious mental illness vs. spending on mental illness.
4. Health care reform
 - a. Additional data and further study.
 - b. What would Utah’s ideal health care system look like, without current federal restrictions?
 - c. Comparative look at health care systems around the world.

Judiciary

1. DNA
2. Family Law
3. Indigent Defense
4. Jury Nullification
5. Protective Orders
6. Release from Jail or Prison (Not to include cash or bond bail)

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

1. Law Enforcement Officers injured in the line of duty prior to being able to reach retirement and how to deal with PTSD or critical incidents with officers, combined with a study of the state's best practices for crisis intervention teams.
2. Off-duty law enforcement work as law enforcement officers or as private security.
3. Law enforcement retention and recruiting: studying all aspects of peace officer retention and recruitment, including: compensation, national and local public perception of law enforcement, and funding sources for law enforcement.
4. Whether drops in law enforcement staffing levels have impacted the number of traffic citations in the state, and how this impacts state and local revenue generated from criminal convictions, including revenue from the 35/90 surcharge.
5. Reviewing LAG's audit of the Sex Offender Treatment Program and discussing next steps for reforming the program
6. Impact of lowering legal blood alcohol limit to .05 on DUI offender's ability to possess a weapon
7. Enforcement of weight restrictions at ports of entry

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

Natural Resources

1. Public lands priorities, resource management plans, coordination with congressional delegation
2. Exchange of SITLA lands surrounded by federally controlled lands for federally controlled lands in other areas where the SITLA lands could benefit Utah's school children.
3. Oil and gas operations (2nd Sub. S.B. 189) and potential oil exploration in or near the Bears Ears National Monument
4. Canal rights-of-way and modifications (S.B. 271)
5. Interaction between water rights and mineral rights
6. Instream Flow
7. Utah State Parks issues (Antelope Island State Park funding (H.B. 317), park expansion (e.g. Goosenecks, Goblin Valley, Little Sahara, Hole in the Rock, etc.), park fees)
8. Wild horses and burros
9. Legislative standards or criteria for appropriations passed through an agency

Agriculture

1. Restructuring of the Conservation Commission Board (H.B. 269)
2. Title 4 recodification follow-up (Wholesome Food Act and Dairy Act)

Environment

1. American Fork Canyon mine tailings pollution mitigation options.
2. Waste Tire Program
3. Paint recycling

4. Reports from DEQ (status of tax credit programs, Bountiful air toxics study, Salt Lake Valley airplane research project summary and results, Great Salt Lake water quality strategy)
5. Regulation of above-ground storage tanks
6. Utah Lake management and role of state and local governments and publicly owned treatment works (Utah Lake site visit)
7. Nutrient pollution and harmful algal blooms (Utah Lake site visit)

Political Subdivisions

1. Local government enforcement mechanisms. (**Thatcher**)
2. Lien powers granted to local governing bodies. (**Webb**)
3. Encroachment issues regarding municipalities and local/special service districts. (**Webb**)
4. Removal of local elected officials. (**Chavez-Hauck**)
5. Animal shelters: information disclosure (**King**) and euthanasia methods. (**Knudson**)
6. Failure of septic systems and water quality. (S.B. 205) (**Van Tassell**)
7. Municipal sewer treatment plants. (**Millner**)
8. Political Subdivisions Ethics Commission review. (**Bramble**)
9. Disposing of property for less than fair market value. (**Sagers, Handy**)
10. Free expression regulation by local government. (**Thurston**)
11. Tax increment financing. (**Fillmore, Stephenson**)
12. Community Reinvestment Agency Act – technical changes. (**Handy**)

Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology

1. Broadband Privacy Rules. (**Handy**)
2. Combined Heat and Power. (**Handy**)
3. Ethernet Cables. (**Buxton**)
4. Long-Term Energy Policy. (**Redd**)
5. Status and future of renewable energy. (**Handy**)

Revenue and Taxation

Tax Reform Items

1. Sales tax
 - a. Restoring full state sales tax on food.
 - b. Grocery income tax credit.
 - c. Earned income tax credit.
 - d. Decrease general rate.
 - e. Should food be put in the sales tax base of all the local option sales taxes.

- f. Removal of three year life requirement (manufacturing exemption).
- 2. Individual income tax
 - a. Lower the rate.
 - b. Modify the taxpayer credit
- 3. Corporate income tax
 - a. Mandatory single sales factor for all tax payers.
 - b. Optional single sales factor for certain industries
 - c. Determining whether a taxpayer is a sales factor weighted taxpayer.
- 4. Property tax
 - a. Freeze the minimum basic rate
 - b. History and effectiveness of minimum basic rate
 - c. Revenue generated by certified rate and keeping up with inflation.

Other Items

- 1. Local tax revenue for homeless services. (H.B. 452) (**Eliason**)
- 2. Access to income tax data by legislative staff.
- 3. Removing the state income tax on military disability payments. (**Weiler**)
- 4. Narrowly defining local governments that are eligible to receive the “hold harmless” addressed in S.B. 247 and cleaning up related provisions. (**Senate Revenue and Tax Standing Committee**)
- 5. Required reviews of 17 income tax credits.

Retirement and Independent Entities

- 1. State employee compensation, including pay and benefits (specifically health and retirement benefits), for a holistic approach to employee compensation.
- 2. Health insurance benefits policy:
 - a. An overview of PEHP Health & Benefits (PEHP) and its role, including a review of benefits, costs, and risk;
 - b. The design of PEHP’s Traditional, STAR, and Basic Plus plans and any other plans under consideration, including the design and cost differences of the plans; and
 - c. Should the state offer a higher benefit level in its high-deductible health plan, the STAR plan, to encourage people to choose it or should plan benefit levels be the same between the STAR and traditional plans?
- 3. Should the Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) charge public and higher education customers directly via a service fee rather than get funded by the state through the appropriations process?
- 4. Should the state’s independent entities be required to adopt policies similar to the:
 - a. Funds Consolidation Act; State Money Management Act; Revenue Procedures and Control Act; Budgetary Procedures Act; Procurement Code; Administrative Services Code; and the State Personnel Management Act?

5. The retirement systems and plans administered by the Utah Retirement Systems (URS):
 - a. An overview of the current benefits available for public employee URS members; and
 - b. A review of the Legislature's significant retirement reforms of 2010, including the creation of Tier II systems and plans and enactment of post-retirement reemployment restrictions.
6. Updates from URS and its consulting actuaries on:
 - a. Contribution rates;
 - b. Funding status;
 - c. Assumed investment rate of return; and
 - d. Investment performance.

Transportation

1. DUI 0.05%
 - a. Look at other countries with 0.05% and how their system is different, including cultural differences (neighborhood bars)
 - b. Insurance issues
 - c. Etc.
2. Municipal Transportation Utility Fees
 - a. Cities are placing fees for transportation projects on utility bills (Provo is an example);
 - b. Is this legal?
3. Nighttime construction
 - a. Industry (gravel trucks, etc.)
 - b. UTA
4. Autonomous vehicles and preparing for their use
5. Innovative funding alternatives for transportation needs, such as mileage tax, toll roads, etc.
 - a. In coordination with Transportation Governance and Funding Task Force
6. Impact of 0.05% BAC DUI level on gun ownership and possession.
7. Agencies' long-term planning

Veterans' and Military Affairs Commission

Whether there should be a preference for hiring family members of active duty service members (**Mayne** requests study by Veterans' and Military Affairs Commission)