

DRAFT–Awaiting Formal Approval
**MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE OFFICES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**
Wednesday, February 8, 2017 • 8:00 a.m. • 25 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher, Senate Chair
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings, House Chair
Rep. Bruce R. Cutler, House Vice Chair
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Lincoln Fillmore
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Rep. James A. Dunnigan
Rep. Merrill F. Nelson
Rep. Tim Quinn
Rep. Angela Romero

Rep. V. Lowry Snow
Rep. Logan Wilde

Members Absent:

Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Rep. Brian S. King

Staff Present:

Mr. Gary R. Syphus, Fiscal Analyst
Mr. Alexander R. Wilson, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Debbie Benson, Administrative Assistant

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at le.utah.gov.

House Chair Hutchings called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. He explained the different types of funding requests.

1. Request for Appropriation - Rep. Ivory - HB0208 - Jail Release Orders Amendments

Rep. Ken Ivory introduced Officer Ryan Rasmussen and discussed H.B. 208 regarding Child/Sexual Abuse Release Order Amendments.

Mr. Rasmussen discussed H.B. 208 and the funding request which involves the processing of the reports.

Sen. Dayton asked for clarification regarding the current practice when a person posts bail. Rep. Ivory answered this question.

2. Budget Request: State Courts

Mr. Gary Syphus, Fiscal Analyst, explained the "Courts" section of the General Fund Requests. Mr. Dan Becker, State Court Administrator, introduced Judge David Connors.

Judge Connors, Second District Court in Davis County discussed the Guardianship Reporting and Monitoring Program (GRAMP).

House Vice Chair Cutler asked for clarification about court visitors. Judge Connors answered this question.

House Chair Hutchings discussed the cost savings to the state because the visitors are volunteers. Judge Connors continued to discuss the importance of GRAMP.

Sen. Dayton asked how the volunteers are recruited and retained. Judge Connors answered this question.

Ms. Nancy Sylvester, Associate General Counsel, Administrative Office of the Courts gave more information about recruiting volunteers for this program. Judge Connors continued to discuss GRAMP.

Rep. Snow commented that these guardians issues are very real and important. Judge Connors discussed the importance of continued stable funding.

Mr. Becker thanked Judge Connors for his work on these cases. He explained the request for ongoing funding.

House Chair Hutchings thanked the two guardians who were in attendance. Mr. Becker discussed other funding requests from the State Courts.

Rep. Snow discussed legislation regarding judgeship funding. Mr. Becker discussed recent performance data.

House Chair Hutchings asked about the compensation of those in the existing court rooms. Mr. Becker answered this question and continued with his budget presentation.

House Chair Hutchings asked if the new software program would be done in-house. Mr. Becker answered this question and continued with his budget presentation.

House Chair Hutchings asked about the court interpreter program. Mr. Becker discussed recent improvements in this program.

Mr. Becker announced that he is retiring and thanked committee members for their courtesy and support of the courts. House Chair Hutchings, Senate Chair Thatcher, and Rep. Snow thanked Mr. Becker for his great service over the past 22 years.

House Chair Hutchings discussed the budget prioritization process. He instructed committee members to complete their own prioritization list.

House Vice Chair Cutler asked staff to prepare a list containing both the building block requests and the budget reallocation requests.

Senate Chair Thatcher asked committee members to consider the priorities of the agencies.

Senate Chair Thatcher assumed the chair.

3. Budget Requests: Department of Public Safety

Mr. Syphus discussed the Public Safety budget requests.

Mr. Keith Squires, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety (DPS) mentioned the priority list from DPS. He expressed appreciation to all of the agencies under his purview. He discussed the recent experience at the Presidential Inauguration. He then introduced Mr. Michael Rapich, Colonel of the Utah Highway Patrol.

Sen. Dayton expressed appreciation for the troopers on Utah's Capitol Hill. She asked a question about the role of the troopers at the Inauguration. Mr. Squires answered this question. She also expressed appreciation for the UHP updates.

Mr. Rapich stated that the first budget priority of the UHP is to continue to fund the ongoing competitive pay program. He discussed other UHP budget priorities. He discussed the current critical problem with recruitment.

Sen. Chair Thatcher asked about the number of troopers with second jobs. Mr. Rapich answered this question.

House Vice Chair Cutler asked about the repair of highway patrol vehicles. Mr. Rapich answered this question and continued with his presentation.

Mr. Joseph Brown, Department of Public Safety spoke about the DPS budget requests.

Sen. Dayton spoke in favor of the funding for POST and acknowledged Major Scott Stevenson's leadership.

4. Requests for Appropriation:

Rep. Romero introduced HB0200 regarding Sexual Assault Kit Processing Amendments.

Mr. Jay Henry, Crime Lab Director, briefly explained recent progress of the Utah Crime Lab. He explained the difference between unsubmitted kits and current case load. He discussed the purpose and need for HB0200.

Sen. Dayton asked about CODIS. Mr. Henry answered this question.

Rep. Nelson asked why the kits are not submitted. Mr. Henry answered this question.

Sen. Fillmore asked about the fiscal note for the backlog. Rep. Romero explained that the bill does not address the backlog. Sen. Thatcher asked for more clarification.

Rep. Quinn asked about for clarification regarding the ongoing funding and the additional funding request. Mr. Henry answered this question.

Rep. Romero gave summation regarding this funding request.

Sen. Iwamoto asked if this can also assist with other crimes. Mr. Henry answered this

question. Rep. Romero will send more information about this to committee members.

Rep. Snow asked what other states are doing and how Utah compares. Mr. Henry and Rep. Romero answered these questions.

Rep. Cutler spoke about the funding request for an additional officer at the Midvale Road Home.

Mr. Kane Loader, Midvale City Manager, spoke in favor of the Midvale Road Home funding request.

Mr. Phillip Hill, Assistant City Manager, Midvale City spoke in favor of the Midvale Road Home funding request.

Rep. Nelson asked why it would be necessary for the state to fund a city police officer. Rep. Cutler answered that question.

Rep. Quinn asked for clarification regarding the funding request. Rep. Cutler answered that question. Sen. Chair Thatcher indicated that there is a mistake in the request. Part of the funding should be ongoing and part should be one-time. They will get this correction made.

Sen. Weiler spoke about the funding request for funds for the Indigent Defense Commission and clarified the amount of the request. Sen. Chair Thatcher indicated that there is a mistake in the request. Part of the funding should be ongoing and part should be one-time. They will get this correction made.

Sen. Dayton will ask her question off-line. Rep. Nelson asked for clarification regarding the correction Sen. Weiler made in the funding request.

Ms. Joanna Landau, Executive Director, Indigent Defense Fund spoke in favor of the request.

Senate Chair Thatcher spoke in favor of this funding request.

Rep. Daw spoke about the funding request regarding the replacement of voting equipment.

House Vice Chair Cutler spoke in favor of this funding request.

Senate Chair Thatcher discussed the length of time it took Utah to have ballots counted.

Rep. Dunnigan asked which equipment was being replaced. Rep. Daw answered this question.

Rep. Noel spoke about the funding request for an increase in the jail contract treatment program.

Mr. Michael Haddon, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, spoke in favor of this funding request.

Rep. Dunnigan asked about the different types of treatment provided. Rep. Noel and Mr. Haddon answered this question.

Rep. Briscoe spoke about the LeRay McAllister Fund.

Sen. Thatcher expressed appreciation for the work Mr. John Bennett has done regarding this issue.

Sen. Thatcher gave committee members instructions regarding prioritizing funding requests.

MOTION: House Vice Chair Cutler moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Chair Thatcher adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.