# Interim Highlights

OLRGO Office of Legislative Resi

August 27, 2018, Vol. 18, No. 4



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# Legislative Interim Meetings

Meetings were held August 15, 2018, or as noted

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

August 13, 2018

#### **Labor Commission Medical Panels**

Received a <u>report</u> from an attorney expressing concern with the process used by the Labor Commission medical panels to decide cases in which a worker may have been injured on the job or contracted an occupational disease.

Action: Voted to send a letter to the Business and Labor Interim Committee recommending that the Business and Labor Interim Committee consider proposing clarifications to Utah Code Section 34A-2-601 and statutory definitions related to medical panels, including the definitions of "occupational disease" and "industrial accident."

Chairs: Rep. Brian M. Greene / Sen. Jacob L. Anderegg Staff: Art L. Hunsaker (Policy Analyst) / Amy L. West (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

#### **Business and Labor**

#### **Complainant's Right to Appeal**

Discussed providing a complainant with a right to appeal a decision issued by the Division of Antidiscrimination and Labor to a Labor Commission administrative law judge or to state court for de novo review.



# **Utah State Legislature Interim Highlights**

Action: Voted to:

- recommend draft legislation, "<u>Administrative Appeal Rights</u>," which provides a complainant a right to appeal; and
- open a committee bill file to address fraudulent claims related to service animals and housing.

#### **Massage Therapy Practice Act Amendments**

Considered draft legislation that modifies exemptions from licensure in the Massage Therapy Practice Act by exempting a Bowenwork practitioner from being required to be licensed as a massage therapist and by amending provisions related to reflexology and foot zone therapy.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill draft legislation, "Massage Therapy Practice Act Amendments."

#### **Required Reports**

Received and discussed the following statutorily required reports:

- Annual Report of the Utah Motor Vehicle Franchise Advisory Board;
- Evaluation of Utah Science Technology and Research Initiative's Strategic Value and Operational Effectiveness; and
- Technology Commercialization and Innovation Program.

Chairs: Rep. James A. Dunnigan / Sen. Curtis S. Bramble Staff: Adam J. Sweet (Policy Analyst) / Amy L. West (Attorney) / Christine R. Gilbert (Attorney) / Julia Octavia Conner (Administrative Assistant)

#### **Criminal Code Evaluation Task Force**

August 06, 2018

#### **Drug Sentencing**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Utah Sentencing Commission on the history and current guidelines of drug sentencing in the state.

#### **Expungement**

Received a presentation from the Utah Department of Commerce on the degree to which expunged criminal records are considered in licensing decisions.

Action: Voted to direct the Utah Department of Commerce to compile a report that includes recommended changes to sentencing as it relates to potential licensing restrictions.

Chairs: Rep. Paul Ray / Sen. Karen Mayne
Staff: John Feinauer (Policy Analyst) / Esther Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Ericka
A. Evans (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

# **Economic Development and Workforce Services**

#### **Earned Income Tax Credit**

Discussed 2018 General Session H.B. 57, "Utah Generational



# August 2018

Poverty, Work, and Self-sufficiency Tax Credit," which was introduced but did not pass. H.B. 57 would have enacted a state earned income tax credit.

Action: Voted to open a committee bill file and instructed staff to prepare draft language for consideration during the October interim meeting.

#### **Economic Development Tax Incentives**

Received presentations from a legislator and the <u>Governor's Office of Economic Development</u> on the design and performance of economic development tax incentives administered by the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

#### **Refugee Services**

Received a presentation from the Office of <u>Refugee Services</u> regarding the status of refugee services in the state.

#### **Strategic Growth Revolving Loan Fund**

Discussed 2018 General Session H.B. 386, "Economic Development Modifications," which was introduced but did not pass. H.B. 386 would have created the Strategic Growth Revolving Loan Fund to make loans for economic opportunities or new commercial projects in the state.

Chairs: Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards / Sen. Jacob L. Anderegg Staff: Julie Humberstone (Policy Analyst) / Peter Asplund (Attorney) / Collyn Jelani Mosquito (Administrative Assistant)

#### **Education**

#### **Digital Teaching and Learning Program**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the State Board of Education regarding the implementation and status of the Digital Teaching and Learning Grant Program and efforts to measure its impact on student learning.

#### **Performance Audit of Select Public Education Programs**

Received a presentation by the Office of the Legislative Auditor General regarding audit findings and recommendations for the Carson-Smith Scholarship Program, ProStart, and UPSTART.

Action: Voted to open a committee bill file regarding eligibility, expansion, registration, and funding issues related to the UPSTART program.

#### **Recodification of Statutory Reporting Requirements**

Discussed draft legislation, "Education Reporting Requirements," that would recodify existing education reporting requirements and eliminate obsolete reporting requirements.

#### **School Leadership**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the State Board of Education regarding efforts to study and develop policy recommendations related to various aspects of school leadership.

#### **School Performance Dashboard**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the State Board of Education regarding revisions to the school performance reporting system, which will provide information about each school and local education agency's performance on various academic quality indicators.

Chairs: Rep. Val L. Peterson / Sen. Ann Millner
Staff: Nathan W. Brady (Policy Analyst) / Allyson R. Hicks (Policy Analyst) /
Rebekah M. Bradway (Attorney) / Tracy J. Nuttall (Attorney) / Victoria Ashby (Attorney) / Brent M. Gage (Administrative Assistant)

### **Government Operations**

#### **Election Code Cleanup**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor regarding errors and inconsistencies in the Election Code, including issues related to:

- primary election certifications;
- local school board residency;
- ballot proposition arguments;
- handling of completed ballots;
- election deadlines; and
- election notices and publications.

# **Utah State Legislature Interim Highlights**

Action: Voted to open a committee bill file to address errors and inconsistencies in the Election Code identified by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

#### **Municipal Incorporation Code**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor recommending changes to the municipal incorporation code, including changes related to:

- inconsistencies between the processes to incorporate a city or town;
- the size of the geographical area that a new city or town is allowed to incorporate;
- repayment of funds for the conduct of an incorporation feasibility study; and
- contents of an incorporation feasibility study.

Action: Voted to open a committee bill file to address items identified by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor regarding changes to the municipal incorporation code that may be appropriate.

#### **Public Employee Performance Accountability**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Department of Human Resource Management regarding the tools available to a manager to address the poor performance of a state employee and the process of terminating a state employee for poor performance.

#### **Total Compensation for State Employees**

Studied the potential restructuring of state employee total compensation to increase pay and reduce benefits for state employees. Received a <u>presentation</u> from the state auditor regarding a study comparing the total compensation of state employees to private sector employees.

Action: Voted to open a committee bill file to address state employees' total compensation.

Chairs: Rep. Jeremy A. Peterson / Sen. Wayne A. Harper Staff: Brian J. Bean (Policy Analyst) / Thomas R. Vaughn (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

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

#### **Healthcare Workforce**

Received reports on the supply and distribution of healthcare

professionals in the state, including mental health providers and school nurses, from the <u>Utah Medical Education Council</u>, the <u>Utah Center for Rural Health</u>, the <u>Utah Department of Health</u>, the <u>Utah Psychological Association</u>, and the Utah PTA.

#### **Hepatitis A Virus Outbreak -- Response and Prevention**

Received a <u>report</u> from Utah's public health departments on their response to a recent outbreak of Hepatitis A among persons who inject drugs and persons who are experiencing homelessness.

#### **Implementation of Cannabis Legislation**

Received reports on issues related to the implementation of medical cannabis legislation passed during the 2018 General Session and issues related to the potential implementation of the 2018 ballot proposal, "The Utah Medical Cannabis Act." Reports from the following entities identified issues that may require legislative resolution: the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, the Utah Department of Health, the Utah Department of Public Safety, the Utah Chiefs of Police Association, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and other stakeholders.

Action: Voted to open a committee bill file that would address implementation challenges that may arise if voters approve the 2018 ballot proposal "The Utah Medical Cannabis Act."

Chairs: Rep. Brad M. Daw / Sen. Lincoln Fillmore Staff: Brent Palmer (Policy Analyst) / Mark D. Andrews (Policy Analyst) / Tara Harrison (Attorney) / Daniel M. Cheung (Attorney) / Andrea Crabb (Administrative Assistant)

# **Higher Education Strategic Planning Commission**

August 06, 2018

#### **Consulting Services Agreement**

Heard a <u>recommendation</u> from the committee that evaluated responses to the request for proposals for consulting services related to a strategic plan.

Action: Voted to approve and adopt the <u>justification statement</u> and award the contract as soon as practicable to the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, the firm that received the highest total score.

# **August 2018**



Voted to authorize the commission chairs to negotiate the final terms of a consulting services agreement between the commission and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems and execute the agreement on behalf of the commission.

#### **Institutional Missions and Roles**

Heard <u>presentations</u> from higher education institution presidents representing Utah's four types of institutions: research universities, regional universities, comprehensive community colleges, and technical colleges.

#### **Long-term Strategic Issues Facing Higher Education**

Heard presentations from leadership of the <u>State Board of Regents</u> and the <u>Utah System of Technical Colleges Board of Trustees</u> regarding the long-term strategic issues facing the state system of higher education.

Chairs: Rep. Brad R. Wilson / Sen. Ann Millner
Staff: Allyson R. Hicks (Policy Analyst) / Nathan W. Brady (Policy Analyst) / Sean C.
Faherty (Fiscal Analyst) / Rebekah M. Bradway (Attorney) / Spencer C. Pratt (Fiscal Manager) / Brent M. Gage (Administrative Assistant)

### **Judiciary**

#### **Change of Legal Gender**

Discussed 2018 General Session 4th Sub. S.B. 138, "Sex Change Amendments," which would have addressed a process for legally changing an individual's legal gender. The Committee heard a presentation from the State Registrar, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, Department of Health, the Driver License Division, Department of Public Safety, and comments from interested parties.

Action: Voted to open a committee bill file regarding change of legal gender.

#### **Diversity on Utah's Bench**

Discussed issues relating to diversity in Utah's legal profession, particularly diversity on Utah's bench. The committee heard a presentation from the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice regarding the nominating process and a presentation from the LGBT and Allied Lawyers of Utah Association.



# **Utah State Legislature Interim Highlights**

#### **Gestational Agreements**

Heard comments and discussed issues relating to gestational agreements and Title 78B, Chapter 15, Part 8, <u>Gestational Agreement</u>.

#### **Governmental Immunity**

Heard individuals describe situations when governmental immunity was applied, but the individuals believe it should not have been applied. The Committee received information from attorneys and discussed issues relating to governmental immunity, Title 63G, Chapter 7, Governmental Immunity Act of Utah; and Title 63G, Chapter 9, Board of Examiners Act.

Action: Voted to open a committee bill file regarding governmental immunity.

Chairs: Rep. Michael K. McKell / Sen. Todd Weiler Staff: Joseph T. Wade (Policy Analyst) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Andrea Crabb (Administrative Assistant)

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

#### **Report on Sexual Assault Kits**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Bureau of Forensic Services regarding its <u>report</u> on the processing of sexual assault kits.

#### **Fraudulent Drug Testing Amendments**

Received a presentation on draft legislation, "Fraudulent Drug Testing Amendments," which relates to defrauding an alcohol or drug test.

#### **Identification Request Amendments**

Discussed draft legislation, "<u>Identification Request Amendments</u>," which would allow officers to ask for an individual's date of birth.

#### **Pre-Trial Bail Bond Release**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Administrative Office of the Courts regarding the implementation of the pre-trial risk assessment tool.

#### **State Audit of Unified Police Department**

Received a presentation from the Office of the State Auditor concerning its recent <u>audit</u> of the Unified Police Department.

#### **Victim Rights Amendments**

Received a presentation on draft legislation, "Victim Rights Amendments," which creates a review process for open investigations.

Chairs: Rep. Lee B. Perry / Sen. Don L. Ipson
Staff: John Feinauer (Policy Analyst) / Esther Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Ericka A.
Evans (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

# Legislative Water Development Commission

August 14, 2018

#### **Don A. Christiansen Treatment Plant**

Visited the Don. A. Christiansen Water Treatment Plant and discussed the water treatment process.

#### **Expanded Instream Flow Use**

Received a report from the State Engineer on entities that currently hold instream flow rights and discussed the ramifications of extending instream flow rights to municipalities.

#### **Irrigation Efficiencies and Water Use Duties**

Heard from the State Engineer and local agricultural producers regarding irrigation efficiencies and conservation measures and how those measures relate to the duty of water assigned to a particular acreage.

#### **Jordanelle Hydro Power Plant**

Visited the Jordanelle Hydro Power Plant, discussed plant construction, and observed plant operations.

#### **Lead in Drinking Water in Schools**

Received a report from the Division of Drinking Water on sampling efforts to determine the occurrence of elevated lead exposure to children through drinking water in schools. The division reported that detectable lead was found in 90% of schools

## **August 2018**

that participated in the sampling effort. Currently, no agency has responsibility for monitoring or mitigating this issue.

#### **Olmstead Power Plant**

Visited the Olmstead power plant in Provo Canyon and discussed the history and role of the plant.

#### **Public Water System Terminus Determination**

Received a report from the Division of Drinking Water on water delivery infrastructure for residents outside the political boundaries of a city and in planned unit developments that are behind a master meter within the political boundaries.

#### **Secondary Water Metering**

Received a report from the Division of Water Resources on metering secondary water systems in new construction and existing secondary systems.

#### **Septic Systems in Drinking Water Source Protection Zones**

Received a report from the Division of Drinking Water on ordinances enacted by counties that protect drinking water source protection zones by prohibiting the installation of septic systems.

#### **Wallsburg Project**

Visited Wallsburg and received a report from the Department of Agriculture and Food on water projects in the Wallsburg area that have benefited grazing, water quantity, and water quality.

#### Water Infrastructure Funding

Received a report from the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, Division of Water Resources, Division of Water Quality, and Division of Drinking Water on planning for, maintaining, and funding existing water infrastructure replacement and new water infrastructure construction.

Chairs: Rep. Keven J. Stratton / Sen. David P. Hinkins
Staff: J Brian Allred (Policy Analyst) / Amy L. West (Attorney) / RuthAnne Frost
(Attorney) / Cassidy Hansen (Administrative Assistant)

# Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

#### **Bear Lake Water Rights**

Received a <u>report</u> from the Division of Water Quality on Utah and Idaho applications to appropriate Bear Lake water.

#### **Canal Safety**

Received a <u>report</u> from the Division of Water Rights on the use of a \$100,000 appropriation for canal safety mapping.

#### **Cannabis Extracts in Food and Animal Feed Products**

Received a <u>report</u> from the Department of Agriculture and Food on issues around oil-based cannabis products being used in either a food product or an animal feed product.

#### **Central Wasatch Commission/Proposed Federal Designation**

Received reports from the <u>Central Wasatch Commission</u>, the <u>Big</u>
<u>Cottonwood Canyon Community Council</u>, and the <u>Association of Community Councils Together</u> on the implementation of the <u>Mountain Accord</u> and proposed federal legislation.





# **Utah State Legislature Interim Highlights**

# Draft Legislation "Department of Environmental Quality Amendments"

Discussed draft legislation, "Department of Environmental Quality Amendments," which provides for the review and legislative approval of certain water quality rules or standards, requires an agency to submit certain rules to an appropriations subcommittee for review, and amends the duties of the Administrative Rules Review Committee.

# Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, Water Supply, Private Property, and Constitutional Amendment Subcommittees

Received a report from the Department of Natural Resources on the progress of the subcommittees studying:

- extraterritorial jurisdiction;
- water supply and surplus water;
- private property rights; and
- a constitutional amendment on municipal water rights.

#### **Mountainous Planning District**

Received a report from the Salt Lake County Regional Planning and Transportation Department on actions taken by the Salt Lake County Mountainous Planning District Planning Commission.

#### Sunset Review - Title 19, Chapter 4, Safe Drinking Water Act

Received a <u>report</u> from the Division of Drinking Water on the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Action: Voted to recommend that the repeal date of the Safe Drinking Water Act be extended to July 1, 2024.

Chairs: Rep. Keven J. Stratton / Rep. Keith Grover / Sen. Keith Grover Staff: J Brian Allred (Policy Analyst) / Amy L. West (Attorney) / RuthAnne Frost (Attorney) / Cassidy Hansen (Administrative Assistant)

#### **Political Subdivisions**

#### **Community Reinvestment Agency Tax Increment Database**

Received a demonstration from the Utah Association of Counties of the database that tracks community reinvestment agencies' tax increment set aside for affordable housing.



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#### **County Classification**

Received a presentation from committee staff on research findings related to county classifications.

#### **Report from the Quality Growth Commission**

Received a <u>report</u> from the Quality Growth Commission regarding the progress on accomplishing the purposes of the Title 11, Chapter 38, <u>Quality Growth Act</u>.

#### **Trampoline Park Safety**

Received a <u>presentation</u> providing an update on trampoline park safety issues.

Chairs: Rep. Dixon M. Pitcher / Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher Staff: Megan L. Bolin (Policy Analyst) / Michael E. Curtis (Attorney) / Cassidy Hansen (Administrative Assistant)

### **Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology**

#### **Blockchain Technology**

The committee received an overview of blockchain technology along with insights for its potential application from the Department of Technology Services.

#### **Customer Choice: Municipalities & Renewables**

The committee studied the roles of Rocky Mountain Power (RMP), the Legislature, and the Public Service Commission in addressing local governments' requests that RMP assist them with becoming 100% renewable energy municipalities. Received a joint presentation from the following:

- Rocky Mountain Power;
- Salt Lake City;
- Park City;
- Summit County Council;
- Beaver County Board of Commissioners; and
- Office of Consumer Services.

Action: Voted to open a committee bill file to promote the agreement between Rocky Mountain Power and participating communities on becoming 100% renewable while protecting end users through strong regulatory oversight from the Public Service Commission.

#### **Damage to Underground Utilities Facilities**

Received a presentation from stakeholders on potential limits to an operator's claim against an excavator for damage to underground utility facilities resulting from an excavator's violation of requirements related to excavation. (Related legislation: 2018 General Session H.B. 455, "Damage to Underground Utilities Facilities Amendments")

# High Resolution Aerial Photos for the Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC)

Received a presentation from the Department of Technology Services (DTS) on its request for funding that would allow DTS to regularly update the high-resolution aerial photos of the AGRC to reflect the state's continuously changing landscape, including voter precinct maps.

#### **Performance Audit of State Energy Incentives**

Received a summary of the 2017 performance audit regarding state-funded and state-regulated subsidies, credits, and other incentives for energy-related activities from the Office of the Legislative Auditor General (OLAG).

Action: Voted to open a committee bill file addressing recommendations made throughout the 2017 OLAG audit regarding the purpose of state-funded and regulated energy incentives.

#### State Cyber Center, Data Security, and Cyber Center Tour

The committee received a briefing from the Department of Technology Services on establishing a central, unified state interface for coordinating cybersecurity monitoring, sharing information, performing cybersecurity threat analysis, and promoting shared and real-time situational awareness between and among executive branch agencies. At the end of the meeting, available committee members toured the Department of Technology Services' current cyber center.

#### **Statutorily Required Reports**

Received each of the nine reports required under Utah Code Title 63F, Utah Technology Governance Act, from the Department of Technology Services and the one report required under Utah

# **Utah State Legislature Interim Highlights**

Code Subsection 13-1-2(4)(e), Single Sign-On Expendable Special Revenue Fund, from the Department of Commerce.

Chairs: Rep. Stephen G. Handy / Sen. Daniel Hemmert Staff: Sarah J. Balland (Policy Analyst) / Kurt P. Gasser (Attorney) / Debra Hale (Administrative Assistant)

#### **Revenue and Taxation**

#### **Nexus Standard for Utah Corporate Income Tax**

Discussed background information related to draft legislation, "Income Tax Provisions," which would amend the corporate income tax code by defining when a corporation is doing business or exercising a corporate franchise in the state for corporate income tax purposes.

#### **Property Tax Valuation Process**

Received a presentation on draft legislation, "Property Tax Amendments," which modifies the property tax valuation and appeals processes for locally assessed real property. The committee also heard a separate recommendation to apply a similar process to centrally assessed real property.

#### Revisions to State Tax Code as a Result of Federal Tax Reform

The committee received an <u>update</u> on the current status of issues created by federal tax reform. The committee has considered several different pieces of draft legislation during the interim that would amend Utah's tax code to address issues created by the recent federal tax reform. Some of these issues were addressed during the Special Session in July, while others remain outstanding.

#### Sales Tax Collection on Remote Sales

Discussed the recent United States Supreme Court decision in South Dakota v. Wayfair. In response, the Legislature passed a bill to define when remote sellers must collect and remit sales tax on transactions made in Utah. The committee discussed the projected fiscal impacts of this change and a <u>list</u> of potential areas where taxes could be reduced as a result.

Chairs: Rep. Steve Eliason / Sen. Howard A. Stephenson Staff: Alex R. Janak (Policy Analyst) / Ryan M. Hunter (Policy Analyst) / Shannon C. Halverson (Attorney) / Tracy J. Nuttall (Attorney) / Andrea Valenti Arthur (Attorney) / Brent M. Gage (Administrative Assistant)

### **Transportation**

#### **Bicycle Registration**

Received <u>presentations</u> from cycling advocates regarding bicycle registration as a tool to reduce bicycle theft and improve the recovery rate of stolen bicycles. The presentations highlighted the online bicycle registration system implemented in Salt Lake City and recommended that a similar system be adopted statewide.

#### **Dockless Scooters**

Received presentations from companies that provide dockless electronic scooter services in Salt Lake City regarding the use of these scooters to meet transportation needs including first and last mile connectivity to transit. The presentations highlighted the high usage of dockless scooters by Utah residents since their introduction. Received additional presentations from the <a href="Utah"><u>Utah</u></a>
<a href="Transit Authority"><u>Transit Authority</u></a> and GreenBike regarding other first and last mile options such as bike sharing. Also received <a href="information"><u>information</u></a> from Salt Lake City regarding regulatory issues it faces as dockless scooters are introduced to the city.

#### **Roadway Tolling**

Received a <u>presentation</u> on advances in tolling technology and how such technologies could be used on Utah roads if tolling were to be implemented.

#### **Utah Department of Transportation Procurement**

Received a presentation from the Utah Department of Transportation regarding potential legislative changes to clarify the department's procurement authority for transportation related purchases. Heard additional testimony from the Department of Administrative Services in support of clarifying this authority in statute.

Action: Opened a committee bill file to clarify Utah Department of Transportation procurement authority.

Chairs: Rep. Kay J. Christofferson / Sen. David G. Buxton Staff: Ryan M. Hunter (Policy Analyst) / Kurt P. Gasser (Attorney) / Julia Octavia Conner (Administrative Assistant) August 2018

### **Transportation and Tax Review Task Force**

August 16, 2018

#### **Local Option Sales Taxes for Transportation**

Received staff presentations on the <u>current rates</u> of <u>imposed local</u> option sales taxes for transportation and potential options for streamlining and simplifying those taxes. The task force also heard from local officials regarding some of their <u>concerns</u> and <u>recommendations</u>.

#### **Public-Private Partnerships**

Received presentations on public-private partnerships (P3's) from an academic expert and the <u>Utah Department of Transportation</u>. The task force discussed P3's, including best practices, current use in the state, and future opportunities.

Chairs: Rep. Kay J. Christofferson / Sen. Wayne A. Harper Staff: Alex R. Janak (Policy Analyst) / Ryan M. Hunter (Policy Analyst) / Kurt P. Gasser (Attorney) / Julia Octavia Conner (Administrative Assistant)

## **Veterans and Military Affairs Commission**

August 07, 2018

#### **Increasing Access to Evidence-based Care**

Received a presentation from representatives of the Veterans Administration and the National Center for Veterans Studies on the importance of increasing access to evidence-based mental health care for veterans and other citizens of Utah. Discussed the importance of training students in the mental health care professions on current evidence-based practices.

#### Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Services

Received reports from the <u>Utah National Guard</u>, the <u>Department of Health</u>, the <u>Department of Human Services</u>, the <u>Board of Education</u> and the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs explaining the services each entity can provide when a veteran, servicemember, or family member struggles with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Also received reports from representatives of the Veterans

Administration regarding who is eligible to receive Veterans Administration health benefits, <u>veterans enrollment priority groups</u>, and facts about suicide involving <u>veterans</u>.

#### **Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education**

Received an update from representatives of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education on its Mental Health Program's <u>veteran suicide prevention efforts</u> and an overview of its <u>Interstate Passport program</u>, which facilitates the transfer of lower division general education credits between participating higher education institutions across the United States.

Chairs: Rep. Paul Ray / Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Staff: Art L. Hunsaker (Policy Analyst) / Esther Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Tracey
Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

# Victim Advocate Confidentiality Task Force

#### **Comments from Interest Parties**

Heard comments regarding confidentiality from victims, victim advocates, and other interested parties.

Chairs: Rep. V. Lowry Snow / Sen. Todd Weiler Staff: Joseph T. Wade (Policy Analyst) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Andrea Crabb (Administrative Assistant)