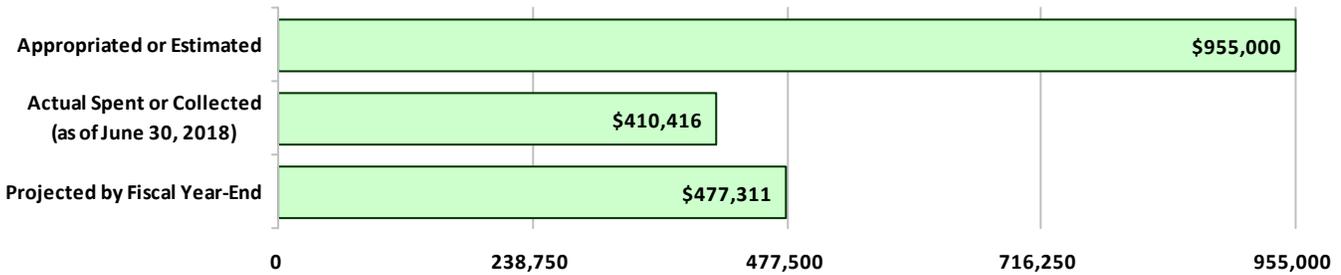


2017 G.S. S.B. 194 - Utah Data Research Center Act

Sponsor: Sen. Jacob Anderegg

Analyst: Maddy Oritt

Committee: SS



Explanation

The Legislature passed S.B. 194, which established the Utah Data Research Center (UDRC) as a program within the Department of Workforce Services (DWS). The bill directed UDRC to build a longitudinal data system linking data across state agencies and education entities. UDRC must also conduct research to inform policy and provide the public with actionable data analysis.

Issue of Interest

DWS spent significantly less than its appropriation in FY 2018 because the Utah State Board of Education diverted grant funds it received from the U.S. Department of Education to UDRC to support systems development. The federal grant funding will last five years. The UDRC anticipates full spending of its appropriation in future years, and plans to use the underspent amount from FY 2018 for one-time costs in FY 2019, including building new servers for the database.

Potential Action

We recommend that DWS report to the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee before or during the 2019 General Session on the status of FY 2018 and FY 2019 expenditures for UDRC, including why one-time server costs were not anticipated in DWS' original estimate of the cost to implement S.B. 194 and whether state funds are still needed when federal funding is available for the project.

Workforce Services Response

Neutral "We applied for, and received, the 5-year grant for the build of the system. The ongoing state appropriation is needed to cover the administrative piece of running the center (staffing, maintenance and upgrading of the system). As such, DWS opposes any funds be taken and recommends the funds still remaining at the closeout of FY'18 be carried over. With fiscal year-end closeout, we are still compiling the fiscal year 2018 expenses for UDRC and will have them to you as soon as possible."