# INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 2020, VOL. 20, NO. 1



## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

Business and Labor Economic Development and Workforce Services Education Federalism Commission Government Operations Health and Human Services Judiciary Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Legislative Management Committee Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Political Subdivisions Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Revenue and Taxation Transportation

## Legislative Interim Meetings

## **Business and Labor**

June 15, 2020

## **Airport Alcohol Policy**

Discussed draft legislation, "<u>Airport-Related Alcohol</u> <u>Modifications</u>," for the Fifth Special Session, which would make the following three alcohol-related policy changes to improve efficiency at the Salt Lake City International Airport:

- set the number of airport lounge licenses at 13;
- exempt an airport lounge licensee from percentage lease agreement provisions; and
- permit a central receiving and distribution center at the airport to obtain a liquor transport license to pick up and transport liquor from a state store or package agency, receive, screen and store the product, and deliver it to airport licensees.

**Action:** Approved draft legislation, "Airport-Related Alcohol Modifications," for consideration during the Fifth Special Session.

## Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Funding Mechanism

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control regarding their five-year revenue growth, profit distribution, and current financials. The department identified limits that the normal budgetary process creates for addressing operational issues within the retail network. The department proposed changing their funding mechanism to be based on a percentage of profits.

Action: Voted to open a committee bill to change the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control's funding mechanism.

## **Financial Institutions and COVID-19**

Received information about the health of the financial industry and whether action is needed to help consumers by providing them greater flexibility to defer payments and late fees. Information was received from the:

- <u>Utah Bankers Association;</u>
- Department of Financial Institutions; and
- <u>Utah Housing Coalition</u>.

## **Interim Study Items**

Action: Amended and approved the interim <u>study item</u> <u>list</u> provided by the Legislative Management Committee. Added the following items:

- Study constraints that prevent medical cannabis and kratom industries from conducting normal business banking operations;
- Study post-employment restrictions; and

Study issues concerning consumer privacy.

Voted to give the committee chairs authority to open committee bill files for items on the interim study list.

## Medical Cannabis and Kratom Financial Transactions

Discussed the constraints that prevent Utah's medical cannabis and kratom industries from conducting normal business banking and financial operations due to the risk of breaking federal banking laws. Presenters included:

- Hoban Law Group;
- American Kratom Association;
- Curaleaf;
- Utah Bankers Association;
- Utah Credit Union Association; and
- Department of Financial Institutions.

## Price Gouging and COVID-19

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Division of Consumer Protection that included examples of price gouging during the COVID-19 pandemic, how the division handles complaints, and suggestions to update price gouging statutes.

**Action:** Voted to open a committee bill file to modify price gouging-related statutes.

## **Private Investigator Residency**

Discussed draft legislation, "<u>Private Investigator License</u> <u>Qualifications</u>," for the Fifth Special Session, which would remove the state residency requirements related to obtaining or renewing a license under the Private Investigator Regulation Act. Action: Approved draft legislation, "Private Investigator License Qualifications," for consideration during the Fifth Special Session.

## Workers' Compensation

Discussed draft legislation, "COVID-19 Workers'

<u>Compensation Modifications</u>," for the Fifth Special Session, which would:

- move provisions regarding coverage for first responders diagnosed with COVID-19 from the Workers' Compensation Act to the Utah Occupational Disease Act;
- modify the definition of "first responder" by listing specific occupations, rather than citing the definitions of emergency responder and health care provider found in the Code of Federal Regulations;
- clarify that first responders must provide written documentation of a COVID-19 diagnosis to their employer or insurer for coverage; and
- clarify how to calculate the disability rate for volunteers, such as volunteer firefighters.

**Action:** Approved draft legislation, "COVID-19 Workers' Compensation Modifications," for consideration during the Fifth Special Session.

Chairs: Rep. James A. Dunnigan / Sen. Curtis S. Bramble Staff: Adam J. Sweet (Policy Analyst) / Amy L. West (Attorney) / Leila Reynolds (Administrative Assistant)

## **Economic Development and Workforce**

## <u>Services</u>

June 15, 2020

## **Committee Study Items**

Reviewed the committee <u>study item list</u> that was approved by the Legislative Management Committee, in accordance with legislative rule JR7-1-401(3).

Action: Amended the committee study item list by adding an additional item titled, "economic development related issues."

Voted to adopt the committee study item list as amended.

Voted to authorize the committee chairs to open committee bill files related to the items on the study item list.

## **Governor's Emergency Powers**

Discussed draft legislation, "Joint Resolution Further Extending the State of Emergency Due to the Infectious Disease COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus," which would extend the state of emergency to August 31, 2020.

Action: Amended draft legislation, "Joint Resolution Further Extending the State of Emergency Due to the Infectious Disease COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus," by changing the date to which the state of emergency would be extended from August 31, 2020, to July 31, 2020.



Voted to favorably recommend, as amended, the draft legislation for consideration during the Fifth Special Session.

#### **Redevelopment Agencies**

Discussed the needs of redevelopment agencies impacted by the measures taken to slow the spread of COVID-19. Received comments made on behalf of the Utah Redevelopment Association.

**Action:** Opened a committee bill file to address redevelopment agency issues arising from the pandemic.

#### **Rental Assistance**

Discussed draft legislation, "<u>Rent and Mortgage</u> <u>Assistance Amendments</u>," which would modify:

- the date when the Housing and Community Development Division may begin providing residential housing assistance to state residents financially harmed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- provisions of the COVID-19 Commercial Rental Assistance Program administered by the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

The committee also received comments from the Housing and Community Development Division and the <u>Governor's Office of Economic Development</u>.

Action: Voted to favorably recommend draft legislation, "Rent and Mortgage Assistance Amendments," for consideration during the Fifth Special Session.

#### **Unemployment Insurance Program**

Discussed draft legislation, "<u>Unemployment Insurance</u> <u>Rates Amendments</u>," which would change provisions related to contribution rates paid by employers to the Unemployment Insurance Fund for the calendar year 2021, including capping:

- The social contribution rate, paid by all employers, at 0.002 for calendar year 2021; and
- The reserve factor, used to calculate the basic contribution rate, paid by certain employers, at 1.0050 for calendar year 2021.

The committee also received an <u>overview</u> from committee staff on how employer contribution rates are calculated and comments from the Division of Unemployment Insurance.

Action: Voted to favorably recommend draft legislation, "Unemployment Insurance Rates Amendments," for consideration during the Fifth Special Session.

## Workforce Solutions for Improved Air Quality

Received a presentation from the <u>University of Utah</u> on air quality during late March, a period of increased teleworking due to COVID-19. Also received presentations from the <u>Department of Human Resource Management</u> and the <u>Governor's Office of Management and Budget</u> regarding the state workforce's experience with teleworking, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, and prospects for increased teleworking post-pandemic.

**Action:** Opened a committee bill file to address workforce solutions for improved air quality.

Chairs: Rep. Mike Winder / Sen. Daniel McCay Staff: Julie Humberstone (Policy Analyst) / Peter Asplund (Attorney) / Leila Reynolds (Administrative Assistant)

## **Education**

June 15, 2020

#### **Campus Police and Student Safety**

Received a presentation from the University of Utah and the <u>Utah System of Higher Education</u> about campus safety issues, including policies to oversee student complaints, students' access to victim advocate resources, and handling sensitive information related to student victims.

#### Higher Education COVID-19 Response and Recovery

Received presentations from the <u>Utah System of Higher</u> <u>Education</u>, <u>Utah State University</u>, and <u>Ogden-Weber Technical</u> <u>College</u> about how institutions of higher education have responded to the COVID-19 emergency, <u>plans for reopening</u> <u>schools</u>, and the status of the federal CARES Act in Utah.

#### **Interim Study Items**

Action: Voted to adopt the committee's list of <u>interim</u> <u>study items</u> as approved by the Legislative Management Committee.

#### Public Education COVID-19 Response and Recovery

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Utah State Board of Education about the three phases for response and recovery following school closures, plans for reopening schools in the upcoming school year, and the status of the federal <u>CARES</u> <u>Act</u> in Utah.

Chairs: Rep. V. Lowry Snow / Sen. Deidre M. Henderson Staff: Allyson R. Hicks (Policy Analyst) / Micah Ann Wixom (Policy Analyst) / Michael E. Curtis (Attorney) / Amy Shewan (Attorney) / Jesse Dowdle (Administrative Assistant)





## Federalism Commission

May 22, 2020

## **Demonstration of Valuation of Federal Land Tool**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from Geomancer and a demonstration of the valuation of the federal lands tool developed by Geomancer for the Legislature.

## **Update on Federalism Index**

Received a <u>report</u> from the Center for Constitutional Studies at Utah Valley University on work completed related to the Federalism Index.

Chairs: Rep. Keven J. Stratton / Sen. Lincoln Fillmore Staff: Samantha D. Brucker (Policy Analyst) / Kurt P. Gasser (Attorney) / Robert H. Rees (Attorney) / Cherish Cosman (Administrative Assistant)

## **Government Operations**

## June 16, 2020

## **COVID-19 Immunity Provisions**

Reviewed draft legislation, "<u>COVID-19 Immunity Provisions</u>," which would address the relationship between the governmental immunity act and immunity related to exposure to COVID-19.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill draft legislation, "COVID-19 Immunity Provisions," prepared for consideration during the Fifth Special Session.

## **Essential Mental Health Services**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the University of Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute regarding the need and demand for mental health care in Utah.

## Impact of COVID-19 on Primary and General Elections

Received a presentation from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor regarding the implementation of 2020 Third Special Session H.B. 3006, "<u>Election Amendments</u>."

## **Interim Study Items**

Reviewed the 2020 interim <u>study items</u> that were assigned to the committee by the Legislative Management Committee.

Action: Voted to add the following items to the 2020 interim study items list:

- civil liberties, especially related to the Banjo contract;
- emergency powers during states of emergency; and
- purchases made, contracts entered into, and cost cutting mechanisms during states of emergency.

Voted to adopt the list of study items, as amended.

Voted to authorize the committee chairs to independently open bill files on the committee's behalf.

## Martha Hughes Cannon Statue Amendments

Action: Approved as a committee bill draft legislation, "Martha Hughes Cannon Statue Amendments," prepared for consideration during the Fifth Special Session. The bill would adjust the sunset date of the Martha Hughes Cannon Capitol Statue Oversight Committee to 2022, remove the reference to the placement of the statue in Statutory Hall, and remove the unveiling date to allow flexibility given the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Open and Public Meetings Act Amendments**

Action: Approved as a committee bill draft legislation, "<u>Open and Public Meetings Act Amendments</u>," prepared for consideration during the Fifth Special Session. The bill would permit a public body to hold an electronic meeting without an anchor location if the public body determines that conducting the meeting with an anchor location presents a substantial risk to the health and safety of those who may be present at the anchor location. The bill also contains several provisions related to an electronic meeting held without an anchor location.

Chairs: Rep. Marc K. Roberts / Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher Staff: Lisa Sorensen (Policy Analyst) / Alan Houston (Attorney) / Thomas R. Vaughn (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

## **Health and Human Services**

## June 16, 2020

## COVID-19

Received reports from the <u>Department of Health</u>, the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, the Insurance Department, the Department of Human Services, and representatives of hospitals, <u>physicians</u>, skilled nursing facilities, and pharmacists on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Considered what has been done in the past, what needs to be done now, and what could be done better in the future.

Reviewed draft legislation that will be introduced during the Fifth Special Session of the Legislature, beginning June 18, 2020.

Action: Voted favorably to recommend draft legislation, "<u>High Risk Population Protection Amendments</u>," which would address testing, collection, and use of data relating to populations at high risk for COVID-19.

Voted favorably to recommend draft legislation, "<u>Reserve</u> <u>Refund Amendments</u>," which would require the Utah State Retirement Board to refund Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program excess reserves to the state if directed to do so by a concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the governor.

Recommended draft legislation "<u>Concurrent Resolution on</u> <u>Refunding Funds to the State from the State Insurance</u> <u>Risk Pools</u>," which would direct that \$11,000,000 in excess reserves be refunded to the state by the Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program as follows:

- \$7,370,000 from the state health insurance risk pool; and
- \$3,630,000 from the long-term disability risk pool.

## Miscellaneous

Received a report from staff regarding the sunset reviews the committee will conduct this interim related to the:

- <u>Kurt Oscarson Children's Organ Transplant</u> <u>Coordinating Committee;</u>
- <u>Child Protection Unit Pilot Program;</u>
- <u>Telehealth Mental Health Pilot Program; and</u>
- Utah Commission on Aging.

Action: Adopted a <u>study plan</u> for the 2020 interim and authorized the committee's chairs to open related committee bill files.

Chairs: Rep. Brad M. Daw / Sen. Allen M. Christensen Staff: Karin M. Rueff (Policy Analyst) / Mark D. Andrews (Policy Analyst) / Daniel M. Cheung (Attorney) / Ericka A. Evans (Attorney) / Nathan Erickson (Administrative Assistant)

## **Judiciary**

June 15, 2020

## **Electronic Submission for Governmental**

## **Immunity Claims**

Discussed whether to recommend amending statute to allow electronic and mail submissions of governmental immunity claims.

## **Electronic Wills**

Discussed draft legislation, "<u>Uniform Electronic Wills Act</u>," which would establishe the applicability of electronic wills.

Action: Approved as a committee bill draft legislation, "Uniform Electronic Wills Act."

## **Indigent Defense Commission Study**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst about access to indigent defense in the state.

Received a presentation from the Indigent Defense Commission in response to the comments made by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst.

**Action:** Voted to have the Indigent Defense Commission make prioritized suggestions to the Legislature on how to improve access to indigent defense in the state.

## Legislative Management Committee-approved Study Items List, 2020 Interim

Received a presentation from staff on the list of approved <u>interim study items</u> assigned by the Legislative Management Committee.

**Action:** Voted to approve the study items list with the following additions:

- Utah Public School Children Accessing XXX Pornography While Attending Utah Public Schools;
- Issues related to the State v. Newton case;
- Issues related to the Rutherford v. Talisker Canyons Finance Co. case;
- Issues related to the State v. Bridgewaters case; and
- Uniform Law Commission Recommendations.

#### **Review of Appellate Decisions**

Received <u>an overview</u> from staff of 2019-2020 appellate decisions that call for legislative action.

**Action:** Voted to amend the approved interim study items list by adding items from the list of appellate decisions that call for legislative action.

## **Tolling Statute of Limitations in an Emergency**

Studied the possibility of delaying the time parameter established by a statute of limitations in the event of a declared state of emergency.

Chairs: Rep. Karianne Lisonbee / Sen. Todd Weiler Staff: John Feinauer (Policy Analyst) / Jacqueline Carlton (Attorney) / Nathan Erickson (Administrative Assistant)

## Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

## June 16, 2020

#### **Choke Hold Prohibition**

Considered draft legislation, "<u>Peace Officer Amendments</u>," which would prohibit training peace officers in the use of choke holds or restraints that may cause unconsciousness and would prohibit a peace officer's use of such a restraint.

**Action:** Approved draft legislation, "Peace Officer Amendments," for consideration during the Fifth Special Session.

## **Correctional Facility COVID-19 Protocols**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Department of Corrections and the Salt Lake County Jail on correctional facility responses to COVID-19 concerns.

Received comments from the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office and the Administrative Office of the Courts in favor of a possible resolution calling on law enforcement, prosecutors, and the judiciary to recognize the rights of crime victims in addition to concerns about public health when considering pre-trial release, post-conviction incarceration, and issuing arrest warrants for violent offenders in Utah.

## **Staff Overview**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from staff on items approved for study by the Legislative Management Committee.



**Action:** Voted to approve the study items list with the following additions:

- Issues related to the State v. Bowden case, as referred by the Judiciary Interim Committee; and
- Correctional Facility Placement.

## **Testing for COVID-19**

Considered draft legislation, "<u>Public Safety Worker</u> <u>Protection Amendments</u>," which would provide certain penalties and procedures to protect specified public safety workers from a communicable disease.

Action: Instructed staff to make specific changes to the draft legislation and approved the amended draft legislation, "Public Safety Worker Protection Amendments," for consideration during the Fifth Special Session.

Chairs: Rep. Lee B. Perry / Sen. Keith Grover Staff: John Feinauer (Policy Analyst) / Chelsea Grant (Attorney) / Esther D. Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

## **Legislative Management**

May 13, 2020

## Governor's Report Regarding Suspension of Enforcement of Statutes

Reviewed a <u>report</u> from the governor regarding the emergency suspension of enforcement of statutes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Action:** Requested that the Governor's Office present a monthly report regarding the emergency suspension of enforcement of statutes.

## **Issuance of General Obligation Bonds**

Reviewed a <u>letter</u> to Utah State Treasurer David Damschen regarding issuance of general obligation bonds to finance ongoing construction of the new state prison.

Action: Approved the letter to the State Treasurer regarding issuance of general obligation bonds.

## 2020 Interim Schedule

**Action:** Approved the <u>2020 interim committee schedule</u> for both interim committees and appropriations subcommittees.

## Authorized Legislative Meetings

Considered a list of boards and commissions with legislators to determine those for which a legislator should be compensated for their participation.

Action: Approved the proposed list of <u>boards and</u> <u>commissions</u> as authorized legislative meetings.

## **Sunset Review Assignments**

**Action:** Approved staff recommendations regarding the assignment of <u>Sunset Act reviews</u> to interim committees.

## Proposed 2020 Study Items

Action: Modified and approved a list of <u>2020 interim</u> <u>study items</u> for interim committees' study.

Chairs: Sen. J. Stuart Adams / Rep. Brad R. Wilson Staff: John Q. Cannon (Director) / John L. Fellows (General Counsel) / Newlyn Kiem (Executive Assistant)

## Natural Resources, Agriculture, and

**Environment** 

June 16, 2020

## 2020 Interim Priority Study Items, Reports, and Committee Bills

**Action:** Voted to approve the list of priority study items from the Legislative Management Committee.

Voted to authorize the committee chairs to open committee bill files related to the priority study items list.

## Access to Agriculture Grants and Loans

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Department of Agriculture and Food regarding the implementation and status of agriculture grants that were provided through the CARES Act and state loans.

Discussed the process for applying for grants and loans. Currently, the department has received 1,389 applications for a total request of \$44 million. Eighty-two applications have been approved for a total of \$1.7 million and 30 applicants have received their checks.

## Impact of COVID-19 on Agriculture and the Food Supply Chain

Received a report from the Department of Agriculture and Food, the Department of Natural Resources, and representatives from the agricultural sector regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the food supply chain. Representatives of the wool growers, cattlemen, pork growers, farm bureau, and egg producers talked about the impact that COVID-19 has had and will continue to have on their respective industries.

## Impact of COVID-19 on Environmental Quality

Received a <u>presentation</u> by the Department of Environmental Quality regarding the impact that COVID-19 has had on the environment in Utah. The committee discussed air quality impacts and how increased teleworking has improved Utah's air quality.



## Impact of COVID-19 on Oil, Gas, and Mining

Received presentations from the <u>Department of Natural</u> <u>Resources</u>, the <u>Utah Petroleum Association</u>, the <u>Utah</u> <u>Mining Association</u>, and <u>SITLA</u> regarding the impact that COVID-19 has had on the production and demand for oil, gas, and mining and how that has further impacted revenues to the state.

## **Payments in Lieu of Taxes**

Discussed draft legislation, "<u>Concurrent Resolution</u> <u>Calling Upon the National Government to Fund the</u> <u>Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) On a Tax Equivalency</u> <u>Basis as Emergency and Long-Term Stimulus for Utah</u> <u>Citizens, Schools, Counties, and the State</u>." The resolution calls for the federal government to make Payment In Lieu of Taxes payments on a full property tax equivalent basis under specified conditions.

Also discussed a <u>letter</u> from several United States Senators to United States Senate leadership, requesting that Congress take action to ensure the financial viability of the PILT program.

Chairs: Rep. Keven J. Stratton / Sen. Ralph Okerlund Staff: Nathan W. Brady (Policy Analyst) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Cherish Cosman (Administrative Assistant)

## **Political Subdivisions**

June 17, 2020

COVID-19 State of Affairs: Municipalities,

## Counties, Special Service Districts, & Local

#### **Health Departments**

Received a <u>report</u> from staff on state and local emergency powers.

Received a <u>report</u> from the Utah Association of Local Health Departments and the Utah Association of Counties on past, present, and future needs regarding the impacts of COVID-19.

Received case study testimony from members of the Utah League of Cities and Towns and the Utah Association of Special Districts.

## Emergency Medical Services Interim Study Update

Received a <u>presentation</u> on a report created by Representative Dan Johnson that examines how emergency medical services are paid for and whether they should be considered an essential service.

## **Municipal Annexation Amendments**

Discussed draft legislation, "<u>Municipal Annexation</u> <u>Amendments</u>," prepared for consideration during the Fifth Special Session. This bill would amend provisions related to municipal annexation.

Chairs: Rep. Stephen G. Handy / Sen. Jacob L. Anderegg Staff: Samantha D. Brucker (Policy Analyst) / Gus Harb (Attorney) / Nathan Erickson (Administrative Assistant)

## Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology

June 17, 2020

**2020 Interim Study Items and Rules Review** Reviewed <u>study item assignments</u> from the Legislative Management Committee and discussed further plans for interim study.

Action: Voted to amend the study items list to include:

- Renewable energy transmission and regional markets;
- Update on transportation of fuels;
- Utah Office of Consumer Services v. Public Service Commission, 2019 UT 26 (Utah Supreme Court case); and
- Update on electric vehicle infrastructure projects from Rocky Mountain Power (as enacted by 2020 General Session H.B. 396, "<u>Electric Vehicle Charging</u> <u>Infrastructure Amendments</u>").

Voted to adopt the study items list as amended.

Voted to authorize the committee chairs to open committee bill files on behalf of the committee.

## **Draft Legislation: Data Privacy Amendments**

Reviewed and discussed 2020 Fifth Special Session H.B. 5001, "Data Privacy Amendments."

Action: Voted to favorably recommend, in concept, 2020 Fifth Special Session H.B. 5001, "Data Privacy Amendments," and to direct the bill sponsor to work with the Attorney General's office to produce a substitute bill for consideration in the Fifth Special Session that addresses the Attorney General's concerns and incorporates recommendations made by the committee.

## Support for Maintaining Strong Infrastructure and Virtual Networks throughout the Pandemic

Received a <u>status update</u> on sewer lines and septic systems impacts from the Wasatch Front Water Quality Council during the COVID-19 pandemic. Heard from public utilities representatives, the <u>Utah Mining Association</u>, the <u>Utah</u> <u>Petroleum Association</u>, energy industry representatives, and <u>internet service providers</u> on the nexus between "essential workers" designations for public utilities, energy industry, and ISP workers operating within the state and <u>Title 53, Chapter</u> <u>2a, Emergency Management Act</u>, or other regional and federal policies regarding "essential workers" designations.

## **Utah's Energy Industry and COVID-19**

Received an <u>update</u> from the Governor's Office of Energy Development (OED) and the Division of Public Utilities regarding electric and natural gas utilities' waivers of service suspension and termination policies due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including known impacts to supply and demand and the implications of these impacts for future ratemaking.



OED also briefed the committee on its energy sector working groups, with an emphasis on the Oil and Gas Working Group, along with current recommendations related to the pandemic's impact on Utah's energy sector and recent <u>federal policy changes</u> pertaining to oil and gas royalties.

## Utah's Telecommunications Industry and COVID-19

Received a status update from public utilities telecommunications providers and internet service providers that operate in Utah and that have signed the Federal Communications Commission's "Keep Americans Connected" pledge, including updates on the companies' waivers of service suspension and termination policies due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chairs: Rep. Carl R. Albrecht / Sen. Ronald Winterton Staff: Sarah J. Balland (Policy Analyst) / Rikka Strong (Attorney) / Cherish Cosman (Administrative Assistant)

## **Revenue and Taxation**

June 17, 2020

## **Committee Study List**

The committee reviewed the 2020 interim <u>study item list</u> assigned by the Legislative Management Committee and received <u>study item recommendations</u> from the State Tax Commission.

Action: Voted to amend the study item list with additional items, including those recommended by the State Tax Commission.

Voted to approve the amended list.

## **COVID-19 Economic Recovery Grant Programs**

Discussed draft legislation, "<u>COVID-19 Economic Recovery</u> <u>Grant Program</u>," which would create several grant programs, using federal CARES Act funding, to catalyze economic recovery in the state.

Staff provided a summary of the bill.

**Action:** Voted to support draft legislation, "COVID-19 Economic Recovery Grant Program," for consideration during the Fifth Special Session.

## Potential State Finance Policy Options in Response to COVID-19 Impacts on Economy

Received a presentation from the Utah State Treasurer and the State Money Management Council on potential policy options in response to COVID-19 impacts on the state's economy. These options included the purchase of Paycheck Protection Program loans and the issuance of Tax Anticipation Notes. The presenters noted that these policies are not currently necessary.

## Tax Revenue and Economic Outlook Update

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst and the State Tax Commission regarding updated tax collections and revenue projections.

## Temporary Flexibility in Uses of Local Option Sales Taxes in Response to COVID-19 Impacts on Local Governments

The committee heard from local government and education representatives who supported additional flexibility in the allowed uses of certain local option sales tax and capital local levy property tax revenue.

Action: Voted to support draft legislation, "<u>School District</u> <u>Use of Property Tax Revenue</u>," for consideration during the Fifth Special Session.

## **Update on Airline Property Tax Court Case**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from staff regarding the recent Utah Supreme Court decision in *Salt Lake County v. State of Utah*.

## Utah State Income Tax Treatment of Individual CARES Act Stimulus Payments and Proceeds from Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loans

Received a <u>presentation</u> from staff outlining how these federal programs may be treated for state income tax purposes.

**Action:** Opened a committee bill file to clarify how PPP loans and CARES Act stimulus payments will be treated for Utah income tax purposes.

Chairs: Rep. Robert M. Spendlove / Sen. Lincoln Fillmore Staff: Alex R. Janak (Policy Analyst) / Ryan M. Hunter (Policy Analyst) / Andrea Valenti Arthur (Attorney) / Christine R. Gilbert (Attorney) / Jesse Dowdle (Administrative Assistant)

## **Transportation**

June 17, 2020

## **Delays in Vehicle Registration, Driver License**

## Renewal, and Emissions Testing

Received presentations from the <u>State Tax Commission</u> and the Driver License Division of the Department of Public Safety about the process for registering vehicles, testing emissions, and obtaining or renewing driver licenses. The presentations also addressed process delays stemming from COVID-19 and other circumstances.

**Action:** Opened a committee bill file to change the number of driving hours required to obtain a new driver license.

## **Protecting Mass Transit Users**

Received presentations from the <u>Utah Transit Authority</u>, <u>Cache Valley Transit District</u>, SunTran, and <u>Park City Transit</u> about the impacts of COVID-19 on ridership and the transit systems' efforts to address safety concerns related to COVID-19. The transit system representatives discussed measures to protect both riders and employees as well as the financial impacts of COVID-19.

## **Recent Trends with Road Usage**

Received a <u>presentation</u> from the Department of Transportation on how COVID-19 has impacted road usage in recent months.



## Study items, Committee Bills

**Action:** Voted to add three items to the committee's interim study item list:

- A review and analysis of east-west corridor improvement projects on the west side of Salt Lake County;
- A review of the railroad crossing safety fund as created by 2020 Fourth Special Session H.B. 4002, "<u>Rail Fuel Sales Tax Amendments</u>" and the process for proposing projects; and
- A review of the implementation and status of the Road Usage Charge Program.

Voted to approve the 2020 interim study items list as amended.

Voted to authorize the committee chairs to independently open bill files on behalf of the committee.

## Suspend Penalties for Emissions Testing, Registering Vehicles, and Renewing Driver License

Received a presentation from the State Tax Commission about penalties for noncompliance with emissions testing and vehicle registration requirements.

## Transition from a Driver License to a State ID Card

Received presentations from Senator Ann Millner and the Driver License Division of the Department of Public Safety about processes and requirements for transitioning from driver licenses to a state-issued ID card.

**Action:** Opened a committee bill file to streamline the transition from a driver license to state-issued ID cards.

Chairs: Rep. Kay J. Christofferson / Sen. Wayne A. Harper Staff: Andy Yewdell (Policy Analyst) / Kurt P. Gasser (Attorney) / Cherish Cosman (Administrative Assistant)





## **Legislation Passed in the Fifth Special Session**

## June 25, 2020

The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel (OLRGC) has compiled summaries of legislation passed during the Fifth Special Session of the Sixty-Third Utah Legislature. These summaries are intended to be general in nature. To read the legislation in its entirety, click on the link provided in this document or visit https://le.utah.gov.

OLRGC is a nonpartisan staff office of the Legislature and the contents of this document should not be considered support for or opposition to the legislation.

## H.B. 5002, Open and Public Meetings Act Amendments

This bill permits a public body to hold an electronic meeting without an anchor location if the public body determines that conducting the meeting with an anchor location presents a substantial risk to the health and safety of those who may be present at the anchor location.

For electronic meetings held without an anchor location, the bill requires the public body to include the reasons for the health and safety risk determination in the public notice for the meeting and state them at the beginning of the meeting, provide means by which the public may hear, or view and hear, the open portions of the meeting, and provide a means by which the public can provide comments electronically to the public body. The bill also removes the requirement for a posted written notice at the anchor location, for meetings held without an anchor location.

## <u>1st Substitute H.B. 5003, School District Use of</u> <u>Property Tax Revenue</u>

This bill allows a local school board to use revenue from the capital local levy for operational expenses for the fiscal years beginning on July 1, 2020, and July 1, 2021. The bill also places notice, hearing, and approval requirements on a local school board that uses revenue from the capital local levy for operational expenses.

## H.B. 5004, Airport-related Alcohol Modifications

This bill makes three alcohol-related policy changes that are tailored to an airport environment to improve efficiency at the new Salt Lake City International Airport.

 The number of airport lounge licenses is set at 13. Licenses have been tied to the number of people that go through the airport, however, this quota system has been problematic since COVID-19 has reduced ridership.

- A lease agreement in which the lessee is an airport lounge licensee is exempt from percentage lease agreement provisions.
- Permits a central receiving and distribution center at the airport to obtain a liquor transport license to pick up and transport liquor from a state store or package agency, receive, screen and store the product, and deliver it to airport licensees.

## <u>1st Substitute H.B. 5005, Revisor's Technical</u> <u>Corrections to Utah Code</u>

This bill modifies provisions of the Utah Code to make technical corrections, including eliminating references to repealed provisions, making minor wording changes, updating cross-references, eliminating redundant or obsolete language, and correcting numbering and other errors.

## H.B. 5006, COVID-19 Workers' Compensation Modifications

This bill moves provisions regarding coverage for first responders diagnosed with COVID-19 from the Workers' Compensation Act to the Utah Occupational Disease Act to characterize contracting COVID-19 as getting a disease, rather than having an accident. The definition of first responder is also redefined by listing out certain occupations, rather than citing the definition of *emergency responder* and *health care provider* in the Code of Federal Regulations. It clarifies that a first responder must provide written documentation of a COVID-19 diagnosis to their employer or insurer for coverage. Finally, the bill clarifies how to calculate the benefits for volunteers, such as volunteer firefighters, by using the state's minimum wage and the number of volunteer hours to determine their disability rate.

## <u>1st Substitute H.B. 5007, Peace Officer</u> <u>Amendments</u>

This bill prohibits the training of peace officers in the use of chokeholds, carotid restraints, or other methods of restraint that may impede breathing or blood circulation and cause unconsciousness. Peace officers are prohibited from employing a "knee on the neck" method of restraint that may impede breathing or blood circulation and cause unconsciousness. If a peace officer violates the prohibition it is a third degree felony. The penalty increases to a second degree felony if the violation results in serious bodily injury or loss of consciousness,



and to a first degree felony if the violation results in death.

## H.B. 5009, Emergency Management Act Procurement Process Amendments

This bill requires the Governor, during an epidemic or pandemic disease emergency, to provide notice to the Legislature within 24 hours of an expenditure or procurement that:

- is greater than \$2 million;
- uses federal funds received by the state to provide financial assistance to individuals adversely affected by the state of emergency; and
- is made using statutory emergency procurement processes.

This notice requirement is repealed on December 31, 2021.

## H.B. 5010, COVID-19 Economic Recovery Program

This bill creates several targeted assistance programs related to the economic impacts of COVID-19 and a public information campaign to encourage healthy behavior by Utah residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- COVID-19 Impacted Businesses Grant Program – Establishes a tax-exempt grant program administered by GOED to provide grants to businesses negatively impacted by COVID-19 in an amount equal to or less than the decline in revenue due to COVID-19 between March and June 2020. Appropriation: \$25M
- COVID-19 Cultural Assistance Grant Program

   Establishes a tax-exempt grant program administered by the Department of Heritage and Arts in consultation with GOED to provide grants to organizations that provide a cultural, artistic, botanical, recreational, or zoological activity that encourages travel and tourism in the state.

  Appropriation: \$9M
- COVID-19 PPE Support Grant Program Establishes a tax-exempt grant program administered by GOED to provide grants to businesses to improve workplace safety for workers and customers during the COVID-19 pandemic through measures such as PPE purchases, workplace redesigns, signage, and technology solutions that allow for distance working. *Appropriation: \$5M*

- COVID-19 Displaced Worker Grant Program Provides training for workers displaced due to COVID-19 by creating a program within GOED's Utah Works and appropriating money to USHE's Custom Fit program. Also appropriates money to DWS to create a dashboard to identify unemployment and job opening trends to better match workers with job opportunities. *Appropriation: \$9M*
- COVID-19 Outreach and Education Program Creates a public information campaign to encourage healthy activity during the COVID-19 pandemic such as following health guidelines and not forgoing medical care, including preventative care, urgent care, and vaccinations. *Appropriation: \$1M*
- Additional Appropriations Appropriates money to provide basic needs assistance for COVID-19 impacts. Also appropriates money to provide translation services and technology for service providers working to address COVID-19 impacts. Also appropriates money to GOED for tourism marketing and facilitating tourist access to national parks and surrounding communities. *Appropriation: \$13M*

## H.B. 5011, WPU Value Increase Guarantee

This bill provides that certain revenue be dedicated annually to increase the value of the weighted pupil unit (WPU), up to a cumulative amount of \$140,500,000 (the cost avoided by replacing the 6% increase to the value of the WPU initially funded in the fiscal year 2021 public education budget with the 1.8% increase to the value of the WPU included in H.B. 5012, Public Education Budget Amendments). The bill amends a section of code that only takes effect if the amendment to the Utah Constitution proposed by S.J.R. 9, Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution – Use of Tax Revenue, 2020 General Session, is approved by a majority of those voting on it in the next general election.

## <u>1st Substitute H.J.R. 501, Joint Resolution</u> <u>Approving Utah Department of Corrections</u> <u>Settlement Agreement</u>

This resolution approves the negotiated settlement agreement for Ronald May et al. v. Utah Department of Corrections regarding Chronic Hepatitis C treatment for Utah Department of Corrections inmates.



## H.J.R. 502, Joint Resolution on Legislative Compensation

The Legislative Compensation Commission recommended in its 2020 report that the daily salary rate for legislators increase from \$285 per day to \$292 per day. This resolution rejects the commission's recommended increase, maintaining legislators' daily salary rate at \$285 per day.

## H.J.R. 503, Joint Resolution Approving Purchase of Properties

This resolution authorizes Division of Facilities Construction and Management (DFCM) to purchase two properties for approximately \$650,000. The acquisition is necessary to mitigate environmental damage done to the properties from a leaking gasoline storage on adjacent property because attempts to coordinate cleanup of the leaked gasoline into the aquifer have failed. Funds for the purchase will come from the Division of Fleet Operations. Once remediation work is complete, the properties could be sold and the proceeds of the sale will go to the Division of Fleet Operations, less any costs for DFCM to do the remediation work.

## H.J.R. 504, Joint Resolution Further Extending the State of Emergency due to the Infectious Disease COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus

The Governor issued an executive order declaring a state of emergency due to COVID-19 on March 6, 2020, which was extended by the Legislature to June 30, 2020. This resolution further extends the state of emergency to August 20, 2020.

## S.B. 5001, Budget Balancing and Coronavirus Relief Appropriations Adjustments, and H.B. 5012 Public Education Budget Amendments

These bills make appropriations adjustments to balance the state budget for FY 2020 and FY 2021, in accordance with revenue estimates that project a decline from February 2020 revenue estimates of (\$757 million) ongoing and (\$93 million) one-time. These bills:

- <u>Reverse most new General/Education Fund</u> <u>appropriations</u> from the 2020 General Session.
- <u>Restore high-priority new funding items</u>, including funding for Medicaid growth, homelessness and affordable housing, mental health services, public education enrollment, and a 1.8% increase in the value of the weighted pupil unit (WPU).

- Reduce base budgets by \$340 million ongoing and \$82 million one-time (4.1% ongoing and 1.0% one-time statewide).
- After accounting for restoration of new money, reduce ongoing state base budgets by \$135 million or 1.6%.
- Use the following reserves:
  - \$52 million ongoing from the Public Education Economic Stabilization Account and \$56 million ongoing from the Medicaid Restricted Account, offset by one-time appropriations to assure temporal balance.
  - \$770 million in positive cashflow created in the 2020 Third Special Session to address the delay in income tax return filing.
  - \$197 million ongoing from "working" rainy day funds: \$110 million from prison construction and \$87 million from the higher education capital development fund.
  - \$341 million one-time from "working" rainy day funds from elimination of construction projects on college campuses.
  - \$42 million one-time from operating reserves from restricted account balances (\$11 million from the Public Employees Health Plan reserve, \$12 million from unclaimed property, \$19 million from various funding swaps).
  - \$100 million one-time from budgetary reserves (formal rainy day funds) to avoid a possible deficit in FY 2020.
- Appropriate \$280 million from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund, part of the CARES Act; the Legislature previously appropriated \$255 million of the \$688 million allocation.

## H.B. 5012, Public Education Budget Amendments,

also amends and enacts provisions related to certain fiscal year 2021 public education budget adjustments (see **Appendix A** for a summary of each change) and repeals statutes creating the following public education programs: weighted pupil units for small school district and charter school administrative costs, early graduation incentives (Centennial scholarships), Math and Science Opportunities for Students and Teachers Program, salary supplement for National Board certified teachers, intensive special education costs, and rural school extracurricular activities reimbursement.

## S.B. 5002, Changes to Procurement Code

This bill clarifies that an evaluation committee may not change its final recommended scores after the evaluation



committee has submitted those scores to the procurement unit.

#### S.B. 5003, COVID-19 Immunity Provisions

This bill addresses the relationship between the governmental immunity act and immunity related to exposure to COVID-19.

## <u>1st Substitute S.B. 5004, Municipal Annexation</u> <u>Amendments</u>

Current law prohibits an annexation petition in any county if the area is included in a pending incorporation process. This bill creates two exceptions to this prohibition:

- The prohibition doesn't apply if a person files a notice of intent to file an annexation petition by August 5, 2020, which doesn't apply to an annexation in a first class county.
- The prohibition also doesn't apply if a person files an annexation petition on or after Nov 15, 2020, for an annexation located anywhere except a first class county.

## S.B. 5005, Rent and Mortgage Assistance Amendments

This bill modifies the date when the Housing and Community Development Division may begin providing residential housing assistance to state residents financially harmed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic using \$20 million appropriated by the Legislature to the division from the Coronavirus Relief Fund. The bill removes a provision allowing the division to begin providing assistance August 1, 2020.

The bill also modifies provisions of the COVID-19 Commercial Rental Assistance Program, created by <u>Third Special Session S.B. 3006, COVID-19 Financial</u> <u>Relief Funding</u>, and administered by the Governor's Office of Economic Development. The bill modifies the definition of "business entity," the requirements to receive assistance under the program, and the amounts of rental assistance that may be provided.

## <u>1st Substitute S.B. 5006, Public Safety Worker</u> <u>Protection Amendments</u>

This bill provides criminal penalties for intentionally coughing on a first responder or correctional facility employee and modifies definitions and procedures to authorize a court to order an individual to submit to medical testing for COVID-19 under certain circumstances.

## S.B. 5007, Unemployment Insurance Rates Amendments

This bill modifies provisions related to the Unemployment Compensation Fund, which the state uses to pay unemployment insurance benefits to unemployed workers. Payroll taxes paid by employers fund the Unemployment Compensation Fund. The bill caps the employer contribution rates to the fund for the 2021 calendar year. The bill caps the social contribution rate, paid by all employers, at 0.002 for calendar year 2021. It also caps the reserve factor, used to calculate the basic contribution rate, paid by certain employers, at 1.005 for calendar year 2021.

## S.B. 5008, Private Investigator License Qualifications

This bill removes the state residency requirement related to obtaining or renewing a license under the Private Investigator Regulation Act.

## S.B. 5009, Martha Hughes Cannon Statue Amendments

2018 General Session S.C.R. 1 initiated the replacement of Utah's statue of Philo Farnsworth in the United States Capitol with a statue of Dr. Martha Hughes Cannon, and established an unveiling date of August 2020 for the new statue. 2018 General Session H.B. 444 created the Martha Hughes Cannon Statue Oversight Committee responsible for overseeing the creation and replacement process for the statue and established a repeal date of January 1, 2021, for the committee. Due to uncertainty about timing created by the COVID-19 pandemic, this bill removes the unveiling date requirement for the Martha Hughes Cannon statue and extends the repeal date for the statue's oversight committee to January 1, 2022. The bill also removes the requirement that the statue be placed in the National Statuary Hall.

## S.B. 5011, High Risk Population Protection Amendments

This bill:

- Requires the Utah Department of Health to establish protocols to collect information regarding the age and relevant comorbidities of an individual who tests positive for COVID-19.
- Requires the Utah Department of Health to publish deidentified information regarding comorbidities and other risk factors for COVID-19 in a manner that is accessible to the public and authorizes the department and local health departments to release



specific medical or epidemiological information to a state agency to assist the Utah Department of Health with that task under certain conditions.

- Requires the Utah Department of Health to establish protocols for identifying individuals present at certain care facilities who are at high risk for contracting COVID-19 and must submit to testing for COVID-19 at the request of the department or a local health department.
- Specifies the conditions under which an individual who refuses to be tested for COVID-19 may be discharged from a care facility.

## <u>1st Substitute S.B. 5012, Statutory Adjustments</u> <u>Related to Budget Changes</u>

This bill makes several statutory changes related to certain FY 2020 and FY 2021 budget adjustments made by Fifth Special Session S.B. 5001, Budget Balancing and Coronavirus Relief Appropriations Adjustments. Because of the number of statutory changes, a summary of each has been included in **Appendix A** of this document.

## S.C.R. 501, Concurrent Resolution Honoring the Graduating Class of 2020

This resolution recognizes and congratulates the students who graduated from high school, colleges, and universities in 2020 during unusual circumstances due to the spread of the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). In addition, the resolution acknowledges the schools, families, and friends who made thoughtful and resourceful efforts to mark the students' achievements through creative graduation ceremonies and other activities.

## <u>1st Substitute S.C.R. 502, Concurrent Resolution</u> on Refunding Excess Funds to the State from the <u>State Insurance Risk Pools</u>

Due to the emergency resulting from COVID-19, this concurrent resolution directs that \$11,720,000 in excess reserves be refunded by the Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program as follows:

- \$8,090,000 from the state health insurance risk pool, with at least \$7,370,000 going to the state and approximately \$720,000 going to state employees; and
- \$3,630,000 from the long-term disability risk pool, with the full amount going to the state.

## **Appendix A**

## S.B. 5012, Statutory Adjustments Related to Budget Changes, does the following:

- Waste Tire Recycling Fund: If there is a deficit in the Department of Environmental Quality's budget, allows the Legislature to appropriate money from the Waste Tire Recycling Fund for the department's operational costs.
- Voter Information Pamphlets: Eliminates the requirement that the Lieutenant Governor print and distribute Voter Information Pamphlets and requires instead that the pamphlets are published online.
- Utah Premium Partnership for Health Insurance Program: Eliminates the requirement for FY 2021 that the Department of Health seek federal approval to increase the maximum premium subsidy per month for adults under the state's Utah Premium Partnership for Health Insurance Program, and removes the authority of the department to increase premium subsidies to keep pace with the increase in insurance premium costs.
- Hospital Provider Assessment Expendable Revenue Fund: In fiscal year 2020, requires any excess balance in the Hospital Provider Assessment Expendable Revenue Fund stemming from General Fund appropriations to be deposited back into the General Fund.
- Ambulance Service Provider Assessment Expendable Revenue Fund: In fiscal year 2020, requires any excess balance in the Ambulance Service Provider Assessment Expendable Revenue Fund stemming from General Fund appropriations to be deposited back into the General Fund.
- Liquor Control Fund: Modifies the sources of money the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control must deposit into the Liquor Control Fund to include:
  - $\circ~.125\%$  of total gross revenue from the sale of liquor; and
  - .27% of the total gross revenue from the sale of liquor, as determined by total gross revenue collected for the two fiscal years preceding the fiscal year for which the deposit is made.
- Alcoholic Beverage Control Act Enforcement Fund: Reduces the percentage of revenue from liquor sales, from 1% to .875%, that is deposited into the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act Enforcement Fund, which the Department of

Public Safety uses to supplement appropriations to maintain a sufficient number of alcohol-related enforcement officers.

- Underage Drinking Prevention Media and Education Campaign Restricted Account: Reduces the percentage of revenue from liquor sales, from .6% to .468%, that is deposited into the Underage Drinking Prevention Media and Education Campaign Restricted Account, which the Department of Public Safety uses to direct and fund media and education campaigns designed to reduce underage drinking.
- Uninsured Motorist Identification Restricted Account: Increases the maximum amount the Legislature may appropriate, from \$1 million to \$1.5 million, from the Uninsured Motorist Identification Restricted Account to the Peace Officer Standards and Training Division for law enforcement training.
- Tobacco Settlement Restricted Account:
  - Increases the amount from the Tobacco Settlement Restricted Account, from \$10,452,900 to \$11,022,900, appropriated to the Department of Health for children in the Medicaid program and restoration of dental benefits in the Children's Health Insurance Program.
  - Decreases the amount from the Tobacco Settlement Restricted Account, from \$3,847,100 to \$3,277,100, appropriated to the Department of Health for alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention, reduction, cessation, and control programs.
- State Disaster Recovery Restricted Account: Allows the Division of Emergency Management to expend up to \$500,000 in any fiscal year from the State Disaster Recovery Restricted Account to fund the governor's emergency appropriations.
- Transportation Investment Fund: Requires the Division of Finance to annually transfer \$1,813,400 from the Transportation Investment Fund of 2005 to the General Fund. If the deposited revenue in the Transportation Investment Fund of 2005 is less than that amount, the division must transfer the total amount available to the General Fund.
- County of the First Class Highway Projects
  Fund: Extends the date, from July 30 to
  November 30, before which the Department of
  Transportation is required to transfer certain funds

relating to the County of the First Class Highway Project Fund.

- Electronic Cigarette Substance and Nicotine Product Tax Restricted Account: Requires the Division of Finance to distribute \$2,000,000 from the Electronic Cigarette Substance and Nicotine Product Tax Restricted Account to the Department of Health for alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention, reduction, cessation, and control programs.
- Division of Child and Family Services: Requires law enforcement to provide a final investigatory report regarding child abuse or neglect to the Division of Child and Family Services upon request and modifies provisions relating to the division's coordination with a law enforcement investigation of child abuse or neglect.
- Preremoval Child Abuse Investigations: Modifies the circumstances under which the Division of Child and Family Services conducts a preremoval investigation of alleged child abuse or neglect. If the person responsible for the child's care is not the alleged perpetrator and can ensure the alleged perpetrator does not have access to the child, the division is not required to investigate.
- County Jails: Reduces the percentage of the county daily incarceration rate, from 56.88% to 47.89%, that the Division of Finance is required to pay a county that houses a state probationary or parole inmate.
- **Postpartum Recovery Leave Program:** 2020 General Session S.B. 207 enacted the postpartum recovery leave program that required certain state employers to provide up to 120 hours of paid postpartum recovery from childbirth. This bill delays the effective date of the program from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021.
- Division of Child and Family Services: Modifies the circumstances under which a court may vest legal custody of a minor to the Division of Child and Family Services to address the minor's ungovernable or other behavior, mental health, or disability. For the court to vest legal custody with the division, the division must engage other relevant divisions in the assessment of the minor's and the minor's family's need, determine that the division is the least restrictive intervention, and consent to custody being vested with the division.

H.B. 5012, Public Education Budget Amendments, makes the following amendments:

- Benchmark Assessments in Reading: Requires the State Board of Education (state board) to prioritize contracting for a benchmark assessment in reading for students in grades 1 through 3 if appropriations are insufficient to provide a benchmark assessment in reading through grade 6.
- Mathematics Benchmark Assessment: Replaces a requirement that the state board approve a benchmark assessment for mathematics with permission to approve a benchmark assessment and makes a requirement that local education agencies administer the assessment contingent on the state board approving it.
- Weighted Public Unit (WPU) Value Amount: Amends the weighted pupil unit value amount and tax rate to reflect a 1.8% increase in the value of the WPU for fiscal year 2021 over the value of the WPU for fiscal year 2020.
- Foreign Exchange Student WPUs: Provides that LEAs may not receive funding for WPUs for foreign exchange students for the 2020-21 academic year
- Small School District Base Funding: Provides that the state board shall distribute funding to a school district that has at least one necessarily existent small school, based on the number of students enrolled in the school district.
- Small Charter School Base Funding: Provides that the state board shall distribute funding to a small charter school, based on the number of students enrolled in the charter school.
- Local Levy Guarantee Increments: Repeals a provision related to state appropriations for local levy guarantees.