

2022 Interim Committee Study Items

Approved by the Legislative Management Committee | April 20, 2022

On behalf of the interim committee chairs, the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel has compiled the following items proposed for interim study.

Business and Labor

(Sen. Bramble and Rep. Ferry)

Health Care Liens. Health care providers may enter into a contract with a patient, who intends to file or has filed a personal injury claim, to provide services to the patient in return for a lien on the patient's settlement or recovery in the personal injury case. A major issue that can arise is a health care provider's purchase or acquisition of a health care lien from another health care provider that relates to the patient's same personal injury claim.

The committee will study health care liens and potential problems that may arise. For example, a health care provider could refer the patient to another health care provider for medical care that the patient does not need, and the other health care provider could obtain a lien for providing the service. The original health care provider could then buy the subsequent lien to get a greater portion of the patient's settlement amount.

DABS Profit Retention. Study whether the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services should retain a small percentage of their profit for innovation. This could be for hardware, technology, equipment, employee programs, customer service, or opportunities to improve customer service.

Banking and Financial Regulations. Review banking and financial regulations with the assistance of the Department of Financial Institutions. Varying levels of policies will be reviewed, ranging from general issues with broad implications that impact consumers and the state's industry, to more specific and narrow policies. The committee will review policies and statutes that could be updated to current market conditions and standards, which may include:

- the importance of the banking/finance sector for the state's economy;
- social credit scores, also known as ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) scores; and
- prohibiting a public entity from entering into a contract with a financial company that has a policy of refusing to finance companies involved in certain industries.

Insurance Regulations. With the assistance of the Insurance Department, study differing levels of policies that could be updated to bring up to current market conditions and standards.

Professional Licensing. The Office of Professional Licensure Review was created in the Division of Professional Licensing to conduct sunrise reviews for new regulated occupations, to review regulated occupations once every 10 years, and to review and respond to legislator inquiries regarding occupational licensing matters. The committee will ask for a progress report from the Department of Commerce and the division on their plans for implementing the new office and its responsibilities.

Consumer Protection. With the assistance of the Division of Consumer Protection, review the areas of the economy that are generating the most consumer complaints and how they may be addressed. The committee will study how consumer protections could be improved in different markets.

Business Opportunity Disclosure Act. With the assistance of the Division of Consumer Protection, study the Business Opportunity Disclosure Act and how the statutes are working, with a focus on the factoring of future revenues.

Real Estate Appraisals. With the assistance of the Division of Real Estate, study the real estate appraiser process, underwriting standards, and review statutes related to the Real Estate Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board and the Title and Escrow Commission, which support real estate transactions.

Medical Cannabis Businesses. Study medical cannabis business models.

Alcohol Package Agency. Study Type 2 and Type 3 package agency compensation model changes to improve opportunities for entrepreneurship in rural Utah and streamline and modernize operations.

Licensee Retail Discount. Evaluate whether to provide product discounts to licensees purchasing in bulk quantity.

License Compacts. Review the impact of licensing compacts as their usage, and Utah's participation in them, continues to grow.

Department of Commerce Electronic Payments. The Department of Commerce faces growing per transaction electronic payment costs as population and economic factors cause growth in licensing. The committee will study allowing the department to collect a fee to defray the costs of electronic payments and create the Commerce Electronic Payment Fee Restricted Account for electronic payment fees. This would eliminate the need for the department to adjust its payment fee appropriation year after year.

Division of Corporations. With the assistance of the Division of Corporations, the committee will clean up and resolve technical differences between statutes to streamline the corporate filing process and study additional data items the division should collect from businesses when they register with the division.

Fee Study. With the assistance of the Department of Commerce, study department fees and services.

Collection Agencies. With the assistance of the Division of Corporations, the committee will review Title 12, Collection Agencies, and determine whether it is still serving a relevant purpose or if it needs updating.

Business Regulations. Receive a report from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity regarding the general regulatory sandbox program and specifically examine the local regulatory burden on businesses.

Other Business and Labor Items- As Needed or Time Sensitive.

Economic Development and Workforce Services

(Sen. Winterton and Rep. Handy)

Post-Pandemic Economic and Workforce Development. Study the workforce and economic development changes in the post-pandemic economy.

- What are the workforce needs and are there any trends?
- How can the state expand apprenticeship programs and get more businesses and schools to participate?
- How will rising inflation affect today and tomorrow's workforce?
- What are the implications if any for policy makers?
- What is the state's post-pandemic growth strategy?
 - Relevant 2022 GS bill: [SB 212](#)

University Tech Commercialization. Examine how universities in Utah can improve tech commercialization programs to be more efficient and effective.

Housing Affordability. Follow-up to previous housing affordability bills and opportunities for improvement. Relevant 2022 GS bill: [HB 462](#).

Aligning Economic Development Efforts Between the State and Cities. Review ways to work with local governments to set aside areas for economic growth. How do we encourage job centers to be established throughout the state, rather than concentrated in one or two areas?

Department of Workforce Services Programs. Review "poverty programs" based on data and evidence to determine a more effective and meaningful way to create self-sufficiency. The committee would invite the Department of Workforce Services to present on:

- Department ideas for the use of TANF to serve individuals on the Family Employment Program cash assistance benefit.
- The unwinding of federal pandemic stimulus benefits across DWS administered programs.
- Afghan refugee resettlement update.
- How counties can communicate to the Legislature what they need to address intergenerational poverty.

Education

(Sen. Johnson and Rep. Snow)

Highest Priority

Audits Assigned by the Legislative Audit Subcommittee. Up to 10 education-related legislative audits may be released during 2022 and potentially assigned to the Education Interim Committee. The committee will review these audits and study findings, recommendations, and related issues. Anticipated audit topics include:

- Higher education campus safety
- Teacher retention
- Student and teacher performance
- Public education financial reporting
- USHE efficiency

Sunset Review Items. Devote the necessary time to review and act upon any assigned sunset reviews, including:

- Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission, Title 53E, Chapter 6, Part 5 (sunsets July 1, 2023). This commission assists and advises the state board of education on issues relating to the professional practices of educators.
- Pilot program for late enrollment in dual language immersion, 53F-5-213 (sunsets July 1, 2023). Directs the state board of education to provide grants to LEAs to offer online language courses to students wanting to participate in a dual language immersion program as a late entrant.

Aligning Technical Education Credit Hours. USHE leaders have been working to better align how students accrue credit hours in technical colleges and degree-granting institutions to make transferring easier. For example, students at technical colleges often accrue membership hours rather than credit hours, which may not be easily transferrable to a degree-granting institution.

Consolidating Public Education Prevention Programs. There are multiple state prevention programs within the public education system (suicide prevention, bullying, etc.) that could be combined and streamlined.

Higher Education System Consolidation Follow Up. [SB 111](#) from the 2020 General Session merged the state's technical college and higher education systems. USHE leaders will provide an update on the merger status and process. They will also discuss issues they continue to work through following the merger, such as:

- Share findings from a study on areas for shared services and redundancies following the merger.
- USHE anticipates issuing an RFP to study the role of Utah's community colleges and the services they offer. They anticipate issuing an RFP after July 1, 2022, and will provide an update on the scope of the requested report.
- Receive an overview of program duplication between technical colleges and degree-granting institutions and study how that could be addressed. For example, Mountainland Technical College and Utah Valley University both offer similar culinary arts programs in Utah County.

Hope Scholarship. HB 331 from the 2022 General Session would have created the Hope Scholarship Program. This school choice program would use funds from the Income Tax Fund to establish scholarship accounts on behalf of eligible students to pay for private education goods and services. The committee will further study issues related to this program, including costs, accountability, accessibility, and administration.

Ethnic Studies School Curriculum. SB 244 from the 2022 General Session created the Ethnic Studies Commission. This commission will study the contributions of Utahns of diverse ethnicities and make recommendations on how to incorporate ethnic studies into the core standards for Utah public schools. The committee will receive an update from the commission on its work.

Public Education Accountability System Redesign. In 2021, the Utah State Board of Education started a process to redesign the state's accountability system to better align with the Portrait of a Graduate and personalized, competency-based learning efforts. Three groups are engaged in this process; their work is scheduled to conclude in July 2022, and the report is due September 30, 2022.

Medium Priority

Public Education Covid-19 Recovery Efforts. Study how LEA's and the state are spending ESSER III funds, high-dosage tutoring to address Covid-19 learning loss in reading, and other related issues.

Higher Education Presidential Search Process Review. During the recent and ongoing presidential searches, USHE leaders have identified areas where the current presidential search process could be modified. This may require legislative action.

Charter School Governance and Agreements. Review findings from the [2021 OLAG audit on charter school governance](#) and identify recommendations that could be codified. Also study charter school agreements and renewals.

"Talent Ready Utah" Transition to USHE. Talent Ready Utah – an education/industry partnership – will be moving from Go Utah to USHE. USHE leaders will update the committee on the transition and expected changes.

Utah College Advisor Corps. USHE leaders will update the committee on the activities of the Utah College Advisor Corps program, which uses legislative funding to provide permanent college advisors for students in some high schools. The program focuses on underserved students and is currently providing college counseling services in about 80 high schools.

Statewide Online Courses Initiative. Study the benefits of creating a statewide strategy to offer online courses for Utah's higher education students. Specifically, USHE and institution leaders would like to create an initiative that would allow students to enroll in online courses from providers in the state and earn credit that would transfer seamlessly to local schools.

Department of Justice Report on Davis School District. Review the response of Davis School District leaders to the 2021 Department of Justice report finding "serious and widespread racial harassment of Black and Asian-American students." Additionally, in March 2022, a racial discrimination lawsuit was filed against the district.

USBE Youth in Care Education Programs. The state board administers a program to educate youth in care, serving three populations under the umbrella program: youth in foster care, detention centers, and custody. The three populations have different needs, and the current "one-size-fits all" approach in policy is not as effective as it could be. The committee will review the existing youth in care education program to better tailor it to the three populations, potentially with revisions to existing statute.

Government Operations

(Sen. Thatcher and Rep. Maloy)

Election Law. Study various issues related to election law, including signature verification requirements, residency requirements, initiatives and referenda, and annexations and incorporations.

Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA). Review potential amendments to OPMA, including the public comment portion of public meetings.

Recodifications. Study the recodification of Title 71, Veterans, of the Utah Code.

State Symbols and Designations. Examine the state's current holidays and commemorative periods and processes for adding new observances. The committee will also study statutory standards and procedures for naming public improvements, such as state buildings and highways.

Regional Land Use Planning. Study the current land use regulatory framework and whether land use planning should be coordinated at a larger, regional scale.

Government Fees. Review government fees to determine whether the cost of administering fees is commensurate with the services provided.

Health and Human Services

(Sen. Kennedy and Rep. Nelson)

Local Health Departments. Consider the availability, adequacy, and use of revenue options for local health departments.

Healthcare Reform. Continue consideration of options and issues related to holding down costs while improving the quality of health care for Medicaid, PEHP, and the commercial market, including options related to drugs and shared risk models.

Behavioral Health. Hold an off-site meeting with local mental health and substance abuse authorities to learn more about current efforts, successes, and challenges in non-Wasatch Front counties. More broadly, consider the impacts of recent legislative actions addressing mental health, substance misuse, and suicide, and consider ways to further improve quality of care. Also, visit private providers to become better acquainted with how they address the needs of clients' families.

Medical Cannabis. As required by 2022 SB 153, consider the recommendations of the workgroup appointed by the Legislative Management Committee to study whether regulation of medical cannabis should be placed under a single state entity.

Long-Term Care Facilities. Examine staffing issues in long-term care facilities, including staff recruitment and retention.

Pregnancy and Postpartum Medicaid Coverage. Study whether to extend the duration of postpartum coverage and increase the income threshold for pregnancy coverage.

Miscellaneous. Conduct sunset reviews, consider statutorily required reports, and address other issues raised by committee members or legislative leadership.

Judiciary

(Sen. Weiler and Rep. Hawkins)

Juvenile Fines/Fees. Study the assessment of fines and fees on juvenile offenders, such as fees related to obtaining a DNA specimen or retrieving a court record. Specifically, explore ways to reduce or eliminate juvenile fines and fees.

Expungement of Juvenile Records. Discuss amendments that would allow for the expungement of juvenile records, including the automatic expungement of records in cases involving low-level offenses or where the juvenile was not adjudicated.

Preliminary Hearings. Review amendments to Title 77, Utah Code of Criminal Procedure, to address defendants' rights in preliminary hearings. Historically, preliminary hearings in Utah were adversarial hearings that served two functions: (1) to determine whether probable cause exists, and (2) as a discovery device in which the defendant is informed of the nature of the state's case. However, a 1995 amendment to the Utah Constitution eliminated this secondary function.

Victim Services. Examine how best to consolidate and coordinate victims' services statewide. While several state agencies address aspects of victims' rights and funding comes from various sources, no one agency has overall authority to ensure coordinated services statewide, advance best practices, or maintain accountability.

Treatment of Expunged Records. Study how employers are allowed to treat/discuss expunged records of job applicants. For example, an employer may ask an applicant about an expunged record uncovered through an online search (e.g., from a news story). If the applicant answers as if the conviction never happened, the employer may feel the applicant is being deceptive. More generally, study how to create a truly clean slate for ex-offenders.

Mental Health. Study approaches for prosecuting an individual with a mental illness who committed a crime. Currently, there are several approaches for criminally prosecuting such an individual, including finding them incompetent to proceed, guilty but mentally ill, and not guilty by reason of insanity. However, there are limitations to

each approach, and the committee will explore ways to make the process more humane for the individual with a mental illness while also addressing public safety.

Child Support. In consultation with the Office of Recovery Services and the Utah Attorney General's Office, consider amendments to the statute of limitations for child support orders and judgments to make it easier for a custodial parent to collect past due child support payments.

Forensic DNA Privacy. Examine investigative database searches by law enforcement for familial genetic information. Specifically, consider establishing requirements that a law enforcement agency and the Bureau of Forensic Services are required to meet before searching genealogy databases or obtaining and processing a third-party DNA specimen for the purpose of identifying potential biological relatives to an unknown DNA profile.

Debt Collection. Review small claims, eviction, and district court debt collection in Utah. Specifically, identify opportunities to improve the efficiency of the civil courts' debt collection practices and ensure equitable outcomes for all parties involved.

Justice Court Reform. Study the court's reform proposal for the justice courts. In 2019, the Utah Supreme Court and Utah Judicial Council created the Justice Court Reform Task Force to complete a comprehensive evaluation of justice court structure and operations. In August 2021, the Task Force recommended the creation of a "Division" within the District Court to have jurisdiction over all small claims cases and misdemeanors. Justice courts' jurisdiction would then be limited to infractions. Unlike justice courts, this new Division would be a court of record, and appeals from the Division would be to the Utah Court of Appeals.

Justice Reinvestment. Request that the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice provide the committee with an update on the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. The committee will also study Utah's efforts to reinvest in juvenile justice (e.g., early intervention services) and identify opportunities for improvement, such as racial and ethnic disparities and violence prevention.

Child and Family Services. In coordination with the Division of Child and Family Services, explore ways to increase family engagement and improve access to services prior to a foster care episode or court involvement. Additionally, explore options to promote family reunification and reduce or eliminate barriers to reunification, such as helping parents navigate the child welfare system.

Barriers to Re-Entry. Explore ways to eliminate barriers to re-entry for justice-involved individuals, such as studying what barriers to employment exist based on an individual's criminal record.

Transfer to Adult Jail. Review the transfer of individuals in juvenile facilities to adult jails. Specifically, explore ways to improve the timeliness of these transfers in cases where the individual remains in a juvenile facility after turning 18 and poses an active safety risk. Currently, while there is a process for such transfers, it can take weeks depending on the judge.

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

(Sen. Grover and Rep. Wilcox)

DUIs. Study recent changes to DUI-related statutes and study their effectiveness based on available data. The committee will also receive a presentation from the Department of Public Safety on the state's Ignition Interlock program.

Privacy. Examine ways in which privacy concerns, law enforcement tools, and the criminal justice system intersect. The committee may consider topics such as the use of reverse keyword and geofence warrants, forensic DNA database retention policies, body camera content storage policies, and regulations governing the use of unmanned aircrafts.

Private Investigator Oversight. Review issues regarding liability, training, and oversight for private investigators.

Firearm-Related Crimes. Receive and discuss recommendations from the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice and the Utah Sentencing Commission regarding ways to reduce gun violence in the state.

Mental Health and Criminal Justice. Study current policies and practices for the treatment, rehabilitation, and management of mentally ill offenders in corrections facilities.

Campus and Delegated Police Authority. Examine current practices for oversight of campus police and other delegated police authority.

Criminal Justice Data. Review recent statutory changes to requirements for collecting and reporting criminal justice data.

Sentencing. Review the ways in which the sentencing guidelines published by the Utah Sentencing Commission and the criminal code interact.

Criminal Code Recodification. Facilitate the continued effort to recodify the criminal code.

Offender Management. Study ways to improve county-level probation resources and explore possible changes to other offender-management resources such as the Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry.

Healthcare in State Prisons. Review the [2021 legislative audit report, A Performance Audit of Healthcare in State Prisons](#).

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment (Sen. Sandall and Rep. Stratton)

Federal De-carbonization Policy. Study the possible impacts of federal decarbonization policy on the affordability, reliability, economic development, and independence of Utah.

HB 281 Transplants of Wildlife Amendments. The House standing committee voted to send this item to interim for further study.

Potential New State Park. Study the feasibility of creating a state park along the Oquirrh Mountains.

Access to Water. Study issues surrounding water supply and access, including access to water service during emergencies (e.g., wildfires).

Wildfire Issues. Study wildfire ignitions and fire suppression efforts, including how to assist communities in the wildland-urban interface to reduce wildfire risks and lessons learned from the Marshall fire in Colorado.

Wildlife Code Recodification. The 2021 NAE interim committee voted in November to approve staff to work on the possible recodification of the Wildlife Code immediately following the 2022 General Session.

Regional Water Strategy. Study creating a regionalized plan for water use and how to measure the effect/progress of legislative efforts to improve water use efficiency and increase flows into the Great Salt Lake.

State Fair Park Master Plan. Report from the State Fair Park Board regarding their master plan and possible Legislative action required.

Department of Agriculture and Food Restructure. Study the structure of the Department of Agriculture and Food to consider adding a second deputy director and dividing divisions under two deputies. This would allow the Commissioner to be more available.

Reduction of Outdoor Water Use on State Properties. Study the need to further address the use of outdoor water use on state properties. HB 121 (Spendlove, 2022 General Session) enacted some limitations on outdoor water use on government facilities, but the Interim committee would study further restrictions and directions to improve water use efficiency on state properties.

Liability Protection for Canal Companies. Review certain liability protections for canal companies, including protection for “acts of God.”

Saline Aquifers. Study how to incentivize the retrieval of water from deep saline aquifers and how to purify that water.

State Park Fees. Study the structure and use of fees charged by Utah’s state parks.

Outdoor Adventure Commission. Receive a report on the Commission’s strategic planning related to the state’s outdoor recreation opportunities.

Political Subdivisions

(Sen. McKell and Rep. Dunnigan)

Study of Continuing Care Retirement Facilities. Determine what amendments to the Continuing Care Provider Act ([Title 31A, Chapter 44](#)) can improve operation of these facilities, which may only exist where municipalities or counties have zoned for continuing care facilities. For example, a facility in Taylorsville wants to be able to borrow money and give a payout to their shareholders. The committee will study how to approach bonding and debt.

Study of Congregate Care Facilities. Evaluate the implementation status and effectiveness thus far of [GS 2021 SB 127 - Human Services Program Amendments](#). The committee's study will include representatives from residential treatment facilities as well as personnel from the Office of Licensing.

Responsibilities of the County Sheriff in First- and Second-Class Counties. Study the county sheriff and Unified Police Department in a first-class county to ensure that funds expended at the county level are being used to benefit the entire county. Examine the role of sheriffs in pre-diversion programs in first- and second-class counties to identify effective practices.

Review and Update the Process for Replacing Municipal Vacancies. [HB 376 – Municipal Office Amendments](#) proposed changes to municipal election law regarding replacement of elected officials once an elected official leaves office during their term. The bill would have allowed a resigning member of a municipal legislative body to vote for the member's replacement, prohibited a resigning member from rescinding that resignation, and prohibited a member from voting for himself or herself to fill a vacancy in the municipal legislative body.

Challenges for Political Subdivisions Related to Short-term Rentals. Study the proliferation of short-term rental properties and related challenges, including crime, noise ordinance violations, and decreased affordability. [HB 462 - Utah Housing Affordability Amendments](#) originally included a repeal of the language prohibiting local governments from using Airbnb or similar sites to punish individuals for listing or offering a short-term rental. The repeal was taken out of the substitute with the understanding that the stakeholders would continue working on this issue.

Use of Eminent Domain by Local Governments and the Role of the Property Rights Ombudsman. Study how often local governments use eminent domain and for what purposes. Several bills during the 2021 and 2022 General Session sought to make changes to eminent domain, and [HB 416 - Property Rights Ombudsman Amendments](#) would have added responsibilities to the ombudsman's office. This study would include an evaluation of the relationship between annexation and eminent domain.

Overview of Local Districts. Study the various purposes of local districts, recent legislative history, and differences from special service districts. Review the governance of local districts, using the [best practices checklist](#) for limited purpose entities developed by the Legislative Auditor General.

Supreme Court Case Review. Review recent and pending Supreme Court cases that will impact political subdivisions in Utah. Currently, a case that may impact statute and/or municipal code related to billboard advertising is before the Supreme Court (*City of Austin, Texas v. Reagan National Advertising of Texas Inc.*).

Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology

(Sen. Hinkins and Rep. Albrecht)

Power Plant Decommissioning. Examine the best way to consider regulating how power plants are decommissioned.

Transmission. Consider the challenges and opportunities related to energy transmission, including how transmission works with new energy sources.

Energy Transparency. Study transparency mechanisms for assessing the cradle-to-grave costs, reliability, dispatchability, environmental impacts, embodied emissions, and supply risks for all forms of energy.

State Energy Policy/Plan. Consider potential updates to the plan and how it affects Utah.

Energy Storage. Review several possible energy storage solutions, including:

- Pumped hydro, salt domes, solar and battery.
- Community Solar. Do we have community solar in Utah? How does it work? Are there barriers to its development and installation? Best practices and what does the future look like.
- Heat Pumps: What are they? How do they work? What are their advantages? Are there government barriers to development and installation?

Critical Minerals and Future Energy Needs. Assess how critical minerals, mining, and extraction influence future energy needs and electric vehicles.

Review of State and Local Government Tax Incentives for Energy. Consider potential areas for local government tax incentives for energy projects.

Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage. Continue the study of carbon geological sequestration and areas for potential improvement in the regulatory framework. Relevant 2022 GS bill: [HB 244](#).

Natural Gas Leakages. Examine whether there are natural gas leakages in the Uintah Basin oil and gas fields.

Grid Resilience. This item would include the following subtopics:

- Issues affecting the economic and operational health of the power plants sector in Utah.
- Federal regulatory actions that may threaten the viability of Utah’s thermal generation assets.
- Potential statutory changes which may be necessary to give Public Service Commission/Department of Public Utilities authority to combat policies from other states that might diminish grid resilience in Utah.

Next Steps for IPP. Follow-up to the various pieces of legislation passed in the 2022 GS.

U-REDI Application Update. U-REDI stands for the Utah Rural Energy Diversification and Innovation. This item is an update on the status of certain ARPA funds.

Community Renewable Energy Program Update. The Community Renewable Energy Program was made possible by state legislation in 2019 ([HB 411](#)) that allows eligible local governments to procure net-100% renewable electricity by 2030 on behalf of their residents and businesses. This item is a report update.

Report from Dominion on rural natural gas expansion projects. This item is a report update.

Report from Citizens Utility Board on electric utilities performance. This item is a report update.

Report from the Grid Resilience Committee. This item is a report update.

Report from the Project Entity Oversight committee on the Intermountain Power Project. This item is a report update and relevant 2022 GS bill: [HB 215](#).

Revenue and Taxation

(Sen. McCay and Rep. Snider)

Income Tax.

- Study various income tax rate cut policies.
- Review of income tax credits, including [HB 262 \(GS 2022\)](#) “Incentives Amendments,” as well as statutorily required tax credit reviews.
- Examine possible responses to the decision of [Buck v. Utah State Tax Commission](#) regarding Utah individual income tax domicile status.

Property Tax.

- Study of property tax structure, including the impact of rising property values on older, fixed income homeowners.
- Examine water usage as it relates to property taxes.

- Study the application of the exclusive use exemption while structures or improvements on properties are under construction.
- Review the burden of proof for qualified real property under [Section 59-2-109](#).

Industry-Specific Tax Incentives.

Sports, Entertainment, and Technology. Review tax incentives for the technology sector and sports teams, arenas, and other single entity entertainment-related incentives.

Non-Profit Hospitals. Consider tax exemptions received by non-profit hospitals, including issues around what qualifies as charitable care.

Oil and Gas. Review severance taxes and [HB 156 \(GS 2022\)](#) “Sales and Use Tax Refund Amendments,” which enacts a refund of state sales and use tax paid for the purchase or lease of machinery and equipment for oil and gas entities.

Fees. Examine fees, including a report on fees presented by the State Auditor as required by [SB 3 \(GS 2021\)](#). The committee will also review fees for use as a revenue source, including related to water use.

Statutory Clean Up. Examine potential clean up language for “activated/unactivated tax” in [Title 59 Chapter 1](#) as recommended by the Tax Commission. Examine updating language in [59-1-1420\(11\)](#) to reference “motion to enforce order” to conform with current language used by courts.

Funding for Rural Projects. Review the Community Impact Fund Program and the Rural County Grant Program to determine a long-term strategy for funding rural projects.

Other Revenue and Taxation Items- As Needed or Time Sensitive.

Transportation

(Sen. Harper and Rep. Christofferson)

Roadway Safety. Study strategies to improve roadway safety and the causes of collisions that cause vehicle accidents, injuries, and fatalities. Issues to study include the January 2022 US Department of Transportation’s National Roadway Safety Strategy; distracted driving and wrong way drivers; and products that enhance and improve the visibility and durability of lane striping.

Road Debris. Examine other options for highway cleanup and litter control programs to keep roadways clean and free of debris as the “Adopt a Highway” program is phased out. The committee will also study the issue of unsecured loads. Road debris caused 1,977 crashes in Utah last year.

Rail Safety. Study other states’ frameworks for a rail safety inspection program established pursuant to 49 CFR Part 212 and evaluate options for Utah to establish an Office of Rail Safety within UDOT pursuant to that same regulatory authority. This study item builds on the amended provisions enacted by 2022 HB 181 and other discussions that took place during the 2022 General Session.

Personal and Commercial Trailers Licensing and Registration. Review the licensing and registration of personal and commercial trailers in the state and neighboring states.

Capital Planning. 2022 General Session HB 322 moved capital planning and development for all fixed guideway projects that use state funds under the authority of the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT). The committee will study the structure of UDOT’s oversight on Utah Transit Authority’s projects, especially the bus rapid transit projects planned throughout the state.

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. UDOT’s Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is a six-year plan of highway and transit projects for Utah and the legislature has allocated more than \$1 billion toward the STIP over the last two sessions. The committee will study the project list and prioritization and how transit projects moved under UDOT’s authority will impact the project list.

Current and Future Traffic Mitigation Plans. Study the state’s corridor preservation fund and UDOT’s current and future traffic mitigation plans to determine if the fund is sufficient to meet right-of-way purchasing needs.



State Aircraft. Examine the state's fleet and usage including all fixed and rotary wings. This includes the planes managed by UDOT, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Natural Resources.

Highway or Bridge Memorial Signs. Review the current process, costs, and funding sources for the development and placement of memorial signs or plaques on highways and bridges.

Transit Efficiency and Speed. Examine potential changes that could improve transit efficiency and speed.

Transportation Funding. Continue to study long-term funding strategies for transportation development and maintenance.