



Interim Highlights

September 2023, Vol. 22, No. 4



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List of Committee Bills for the 2024 General Session

As of September 21, 2023

Legislative Interim Meetings

Meetings were held September, 18, 2023, or as noted

Administrative Rules Review and General Oversight

August 28, 2023

Board of Pardons and Parole Warrant Requirements

Received a presentation from committee staff and the Board of Pardons and Parole related to potential conflicts identified in a [legislative audit](#) in 2022. Discussed the consideration of probable cause when deciding to issue a warrant for parole violations.

Charter School Authorization Requirements

Received a presentation from committee staff, stakeholders, and the State Board of Education on the implementation of administrative rule [R277-552-3](#). Discussed possible compromises to allow charter school authorizers flexibility in working with potential charters while also upholding the board's statutory and constitutional responsibilities to provide for the public education system.

Ogden City Police Department Ticketing Practices

Received a presentation from committee staff and the Ogden Police Department regarding potential violations of Utah Code Section [77-7-27](#), which prohibits the use of law enforcement quotas. Discussed how police departments can properly evaluate officer performance while complying with the existing law.

Chairs: Rep. Kera Birkeland / Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Staff: Rohnin Randles (Policy Analyst) / Christopher Williams (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

Business and Labor

Non-disparagement Clauses

Received presentations from committee staff, stakeholders, and the [Division of Consumer Protection](#) on non-disparagement clauses, particularly in construction contracts. Discussed policy options to strengthen consumer protections similar to the federal Consumer Review Fairness Act.

***Action:** Opened a committee bill file to consider the division's recommendations and explore policy options.*

Noncompete Agreements

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff on the legislative history and case law related to noncompete agreements. Received a presentation from the Marriner S. Eccles Institute at the University of Utah on current trends and the economic effects of noncompete agreements.

State Construction and Fire Codes

Received a presentation from a legislator on suggested changes to the construction and fire codes following the passage of 2023 General Session H.B. 532, "Building Code Revisions." Discussed merits and drawbacks of amending model codes published by the International Code Council and the use of mandatory inspections.

***Action:** Opened a committee bill file to make the suggested changes.*

Worker Classification Coordinated Enforcement Council

Received a presentation from the Labor Commission on its [annual report](#) on the state of worker misclassification in Utah. The report includes findings of \$6.8 million in unreported wages and 400 misclassified workers.

Chairs: Rep. A. Cory Maloy / Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Staff: Adam J. Sweet (Policy Analyst) / Rohnin Randles (Policy Analyst) / Amy Shewan (Attorney) / Austin Weenig (Attorney) / Finn Andrew Rose (Administrative Assistant)



Criminal Code Evaluation Task Force

September 14, 2023

Criminal Code Amendments

Received an overview from committee staff on 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Criminal Code Amendments](#)," which would:

- amend the penalty for attempted murder to include a mandatory minimum prison sentence of five years;
- clarify that the crime of interference with a public servant does not apply to conduct that rises to the level of unlawful detention; and
- repeal [Title 76, Chapter 8, Part 8 Sabotage Prevention](#).

***Action:** Recommended 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Criminal Code Amendments," to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee, with the condition that, if the chairs of the committee approve additions to address sexual relations with an adult secondary school student and forcible removal of clothing, the task force will revisit the draft language.*

Criminal Code Recodification

Received comments from committee staff about cross references for the recodification of the criminal code.

***Action:** Recommended "[Criminal Code Recodification and Cross References](#)," to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee.*

Sexual Misconduct Crimes

Discussed possible changes to the criminal code that would criminalize sexual relations between an adult secondary school student and a school employee. Discussed possible changes to the criminal code that would criminalize removing an article of clothing of another individual without their consent.

Chairs: Rep. Matthew H. Gwynn / Sen. Todd D. Weiler
Staff: John Feinauer (Managing Policy Analyst) / Shad Larson (Attorney) / Jackie Rogers (Attorney) / Taylor Calabrese (Administrative Assistant)

Economic Development and Workforce Services

Immigration and Integration

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Center for Immigration and Integration on the size of the immigrant population in Utah, the demographics of this population, and their economic impact.

Remote Online Opportunities Program

Received a [presentation](#) from Utah State University on the purpose, history, and successes of the Rural Online Initiative.

Sunset review: Rural Motion Picture Incentive

***Action:** Approved as a committee bill 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Motion Picture Incentive Amendments](#)," which would remove the program sunset date and add a presentation requirement.*

Visitor Economy Management

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Office of Tourism on the results of the Red Emerald Strategy and the impacts of tourism on Utah's economy. The Red Emerald Strategy is an internal guiding document used by the Utah Office of Tourism to attract quality visitation experiences and to encourage longer visits, increased spending, dispersed visitation throughout the state, and deeper engagement with local communities.

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Tourism Industry Association on its purpose, its revenue streams, and the impacts of its services.

Heard comments from Garfield and Washington county commissioners on how tourism shapes their economies and from Grand County Emergency Medical Services about the challenges of providing essential services to the growing tourist population.

Chairs: Rep. Jeffrey D. Stenquist / Sen. Ronald M. Winterton
Staff: Sivan Nizan (Policy Analyst) / Anikka Hoidal (Attorney) / Samantha Merrell (Administrative Assistant)

Education

Draft Legislation: Concurrent Enrollment Revisions

Received a presentation on 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Concurrent Enrollment Revisions](#)," which would address issues related to the state's concurrent enrollment program.

***Action:** Approved as a committee bill 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Concurrent Enrollment Revisions."*

Draft Legislation: Higher Education Financial Aid Amendments

Received a presentation on 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Higher Education Financial Aid Amendments](#)," which would address tuition assistance and waiver programs for military service members and their dependents.



***Action:** Approved as a committee bill 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Higher Education Financial Aid Amendments."*

Draft Legislation: School District Amendments

Received a presentation on 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[School District Amendments](#)," which would amend the process for dividing a school district.

Early Literacy Update/Science of Reading

Received a [presentation](#) from the State Board of Education on early reading instruction in the state, including information on [outcomes](#) over time and the initial impacts resulting from the passage of 2022 General Session S.B. 127, "[Early Literacy Outcomes Improvement](#)."

Chairs: Rep. Candice B. Pierucci / Sen. John D. Johnson
Staff: Micah Ann Wixom (Policy Analyst) / Robert Wood (Policy Analyst) / Rhonda Bailey (Attorney) / Jeff Van Hulst (Attorney) / Mike Curtis (Managing Associate General Counsel) / Taylor Calabrese (Administrative Assistant)

Education and Mental Health

Coordinating Council

August 23, 2023

Utah Behavioral Health Assessment & Master Plan

Received a [presentation](#) on the "[Utah Behavioral Health Assessment and Master Plan](#)" from the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute. The Master Plan is the product of a collaborative effort by members of the Utah Behavioral Health Coalition to assess the state's current system of behavioral health services and develop a comprehensive approach to addressing current and future needs.

Intermountain Health School-Based Telehealth Clinics

Received a [presentation](#) from Intermountain Health on school-based telehealth clinics and a pilot program in Wasatch School District.

Utah School Mental Health Collaborative

Received a [presentation](#) from the School Mental Health Collaborative at the University of Utah. The Collaborative works with local schools to develop and support school-based healthcare access.

State Board of Education

Received a [presentation](#) from the State Board of Education on the board's strategic plan and how the board is addressing mental health concerns for students.

Chairs: Rep. Melissa G. Ballard / Rebecca Dutson
Staff: Sivan Nizan (Policy Analyst) / Rhonda Bailey (Attorney) / Shay Berger (Administrative Assistant)

Ethnic Studies Commission

September 14, 2023

Received a [summary](#) of progress toward the duties outlined in statute and discussed ideas for recommendations to the governor, state agencies, and the Legislature.

Chairs: Rep. Melissa G. Ballard / Rebecca Dutson
Staff: Sivan Nizan (Policy Analyst) / Rhonda Bailey (Attorney) / Shay Berger (Administrative Assistant)

Government Operations

Draft Legislation: Certification of Local Entity

Boundary Actions

Reviewed 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Certification of Local Entity Boundary Actions](#)," which would address the process and requirements for certification of local boundary actions.

Electronic Notarizations

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Electronic Notarization Amendments](#)," which would allow electronically notarized documents to be recorded electronically in a county recorder's office and authorize the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to adopt rules addressing electronic notarizations.

Governor's Review of New Boards

Received a [report](#) from the Office of the Governor on the new executive boards created during the 2022 General Session.

Action: Opened a committee bill file to address recommendations on new executive boards created during the 2022 General Session.

State Employee Recruitment and Retention

Received a [presentation](#) from the Division of Human Resource Management on state employee recruitment and retention, including an update on the implementation of 2022 General Session H.B. 104, "[State Employment Amendments](#)."

Sunset Review: Provisions Related to the Utah Seismic Safety Commission

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Utah Seismic Safety Commission Amendments](#)," which would extend the sunset date for provisions of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission by five years.

Sunset Review: Veterans and Military Affairs Commission

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Veterans and Military Affairs Commission Amendments](#)," which would extend the sunset date for the Veterans and Military Affairs Commission by five years.

Voter Registration Database Audit

Received a [presentation](#) from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on a recent [audit](#) of the voter registration database.

Chairs: Rep. Calvin R. Musselman / Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher / Sen. Ronald M. Winterton
Staff: Lisa Sorensen (Policy Analyst) / Michael Cipriano (Attorney) / Thomas R. Vaughn (Managing Associate General Counsel) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

Health and Human Services

Committee Bill Files

Actions: Opened a committee bill file to address technical issues resulting from the 2023 General Session recodification of health and human services statutes.

Opened a committee bill file to simplify, streamline, and eliminate statutory reporting requirements related to health and human services.

Opened a committee bill file to address fatality review reporting requirements.

Opened a committee bill file to extend the sunset date for the Neuro-Rehabilitation Fund and the Pediatric Neuro-Rehabilitation Fund, and to potentially combine the funds.

Opened a committee bill file to implement the recommendations of the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Commission.

Illegal Flavored Electronic Cigarette Tobacco Products

Received a report from the Department of Health and Human Services on the regulatory framework for electronic cigarettes and efforts to reduce access to illegal products.

Public Health in Rural Utah

Received comments from the Southwest Utah Public Health Department about challenges associated with delivering public health services and programs in rural Utah.

Utah Health Data Authority

Considered 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Health Data Authority Amendments](#)," which would repeal the sunset date for Title 26B, Chapter 8, Part 5, [Utah Health Data Authority](#).

Utah's Healthcare Workforce

Received presentations from [Utah Tech University](#), [Rocky Vista University](#), and the [Department of Health and Human Services](#), on challenges facing, opportunities to improve, and strategies to strengthen Utah's healthcare workforce.

Chairs: Rep. Ken Ivory / Sen. Michael S. Kennedy
Staff: Mark D. Andrews (Policy Analyst) / Seth Anderson (Policy Analyst) / Alan Houston (Attorney) / Christopher Williams (Attorney) / Gregory N. Gunn (Attorney) / Shay Berger (Administrative Assistant)



Judiciary

Approval Process for State Legal Settlements

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff and comments from the Division of Risk Management on the process for reviewing and approving legal settlements by state entities, such as public universities.

Death Row Inmate Transfers

Received presentations from [committee staff](#) and the [Department of Corrections](#) on the policy of transferring death row inmates who meet certain criteria to the general prison population.

Legislative Audit on State Data Privacy Practices

Received a [presentation](#) from the Office of the Legislative Auditor General on the collection, protection, and use of personal information of Utah citizens by state agencies.

***Action:** Opened a committee bill file to address the legislative recommendations in the audit for improving the state's data privacy practices.*

Chairs: Rep. Jon Hawkins / Sen. Todd D. Weiler
Staff: Jonathan Adams (Policy Analyst) / Eric N. Weeks (Managing Associate General Counsel) / Jacqueline Carlton (Attorney) / Naomi Garrow (Administrative Assistant)

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Inmate Reentry and Recidivism

Received a [presentation](#) from the Department of Corrections on Utah's recidivism rate as well as treatment and program opportunities designed to reduce recidivism by preparing inmates for reentry into society.



Peace Officer Standards and Training Requirements

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff on national and state trends in training legislation and recent legislation in Utah. Received a presentation from the Department of Public Safety on training requirements.

Public Safety Workforce: Mental Health Services for First Responders

Received a presentation from the Utah System of Higher Education on the implementation of the First Responder Mental Health Services Grant Program created by 2023 General Session H.B. 278, "[First Responder Mental Health Services Grant Program](#)."

Received a presentation from the Department of Health and Human Services on the critical incident stress management team.

***Action:** Opened a committee bill file to make changes to the First Responder Mental Health Services Grant Program.*

School Security Task Force Update

Received an update from the School Security Task Force on recent events related to school safety and the coordination responsibilities of county sheriffs. Received a presentation from Washington County School District on threats made to the district's schools and efforts to support at-risk students and school resource officers.

Sex Offender Registry

Received [presentations](#) from the Department of Corrections (UDC) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) on the upcoming transition of the sex offender registry from UDC to DPS. Discussed the number of offenders on the registry and their supervision status.

Substance Use and Criminal Justice

Received a [presentation](#) from the Statewide Information and Analysis Center on drug trafficking in Utah and the drug monitoring initiative. Received a [presentation](#) from the Department of Public Safety on drug-impaired driving.

***Actions:** Opened a committee bill file to increase the penalty for using a firearm while engaged in drug trafficking.*

Opened a committee bill file to address drug testing and coordination among labs.

Chairs: Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox / Sen. Keith Grover
Staff: John Feinauer (Managing Policy Analyst) / Sarah Flanigan (Policy Analyst) / Shad Larson (Attorney) / Jackie Rogers (Attorney) / Taylor Calabrese (Administrative Assistant)

Legislative Planning Conference

September 19, 2023

Received a presentation on Utah's long-term demographic and economic trends, including an analysis of state government vulnerabilities.

Breakout sessions covered:

- Utah's water supply, funding, and conservation efforts over the next 20 and 50 years, with presentations from the Great Salt Lake Commissioner and Utah Colorado River Authority Commissioner; and
- Enhancing Utah's quality of life as Utah grows, including plans and strategies to address housing and transportation infrastructure needs.

Concluded by learning from state leaders and industry experts about the promise and peril of artificial intelligence.

Legislative Water Development Commission

September 12, 2023

Draft Legislation: Bear Lake Preservation Amendments

Received a [presentation](#) on 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Bear Lake Preservation Amendments](#)," which would recognize certain principles related to Bear Lake.

Draft Legislation: Water Interests Inventory Requirements

Reviewed 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Water Interests Inventory Requirements](#)," which would require certain entities to submit an inventory of water-related information.

Great Salt Lake Update

Received an [update](#) from the Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Water Quality (DWQ) about its work related to the Great Salt Lake, including:

- its role in protecting the Great Salt Lake's water quality;
- an update on listing the Great Salt Lake as an impaired water body; and
- the role of DWQ in the implementation of 2023 General Session, H.B. 513, "[Great Salt Lake Amendments](#)."

Israel Innovation Authority

Received a [presentation](#) from the Department of Natural Resources about the Israel Innovation Authority and its model for industry-driven, collaborative research to find innovative solutions to problems, including water-related problems.

Small Culinary Water Companies

Received a [presentation](#) from the Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Drinking Water on individual drinking water meters, including the challenges to individual metering by small water systems.

Chairs: Rep. Casey Snider / Sen. David P. Hinkins
Staff: Charley Hart (Policy Analyst) / Julie Humberstone (Policy Analyst) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Ryan C. Williams (Attorney) / Finn Andrew Rose (Administrative Assistant)

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

Draft Legislation: Agricultural and Wildlife Damage Prevention Board

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Agricultural and Wildlife Damage Prevention Board Amendments](#)," which would extend the sunset date of the Agricultural and Wildlife Damage Prevention Board by 10 years.

Draft Legislation: Division of Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council Sunset Extension

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Division of Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council Sunset Extension](#)," which would extend the sunset date of the advisory council that advises the Division of Outdoor Recreation on boating policies by five years.

Draft Legislation: Safe Drinking Water Act Sunset Extension

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Safe Drinking Water Act Sunset Extension](#)," which would extend the sunset date of the Safe Drinking Water Act by five years.



Draft Legislation: Snake Valley Aquifer Advisory Council Amendments

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Snake Valley Aquifer Advisory Council Amendments](#)," which would remove provisions related to the Snake Valley Aquifer.

Shareholder Change Applications

Received a [presentation](#) from the Division of Water Rights on shareholder change applications. Heard from an attorney and the [Bear River Canal Company](#) on the needs of applicants and water companies in the shareholder change application process.

Action: Opened a committee bill file to address shareholder change applications.

Small Culinary Water Companies

Received a [presentation](#) from the Department of Environmental Quality about individual drinking water meters, including the challenges of metering for small culinary water systems.

Action: Voted to request that the Department of Environmental Quality survey water companies about their metering policies.

Utah Water Ways Update

Received an [update](#) from the Division of Water Resources on the formation of Utah Water Ways, created by 2023 General Session H.B. 307, "[Utah Water Ways](#)."



Veterinary Services

Received a [presentation](#) from the Department of Agriculture and Food about the shortage of large animal veterinarians in rural areas of the state, including reasons for the shortage and recommendations for possible legislative action to address the shortage.

Watershed Councils Act

Received a [presentation](#) from the Division of Water Resources on the [Watershed Councils Act](#), including an update on its implementation and potential changes to the act.

Chairs: Rep. Walt Brooks / Sen. Scott D. Sandall
Staff: Charley Hart (Policy Analyst) / Julie Humberstone (Policy Analyst) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Ryan C. Williams (Attorney) / Finn Andrew Rose (Administrative Assistant)

Political Subdivisions

Political Subdivisions Land Authorities

Received presentations from [committee staff](#), the [Point of the Mountain State Land Authority](#), the [Utah Inland Port Authority](#), and the [Military Installation Development Authority](#). Discussed the statutory authority for each entity, bonding authority, taxing authority, legislative appropriations received, other revenue sources, and general authority project status.

Chairs: Rep. James A. Dunnigan / Sen. Michael K. McKell
Staff: Nathan W. Brady (Policy Analyst) / Robert H. Rees (Attorney) / Naomi Garrow (Administrative Assistant)

Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology

Energy Fuels

Received a [presentation](#) from Energy Fuels on what they do and the importance of mining uranium and rare earth minerals.

Idaho National Laboratory

Received a [presentation](#) from Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear on the ways the Idaho National Laboratory is engaging with states on advancing new nuclear technologies.

Project Entity Continued Operation Study

Received a [preliminary report](#) from Jackson Walker, LLP, on the feasibility of continued operation of the Intermountain Power Plant.

Regional Transmission Organizations

Received a [presentation](#) from the Division of Public Utilities on regional transmission organizations and the opportunities and challenges associated with them. Received a [presentation](#) from Deseret Power on RTO West and the opportunities and challenges for Utah rate payers.

San Rafael Energy Research Center

Received a [presentation](#) from the San Rafael Energy Research Center on the types of projects they are working on and their ambitions for future partnerships and projects.

Chairs: Rep. Carl R. Albrecht / Sen. David P. Hinkins
Staff: Samantha D. Brucker (Managing Policy Analyst) / Scott Elder (Attorney) / Samantha Merrell (Administrative Assistant)

Retirement and Independent Entities

September 11, 2023

Independent Entity Review: Utah Communications Authority

Considered 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Utah Communications Authority Modifications](#)," which would:

- streamline provisions concerning which statutes apply to the authority;
- combine reporting requirements into a single section;
- modify an advice and consent requirement for the chair of the board; and
- repeal outdated and obsolete provisions.

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Utah Communications Authority Modifications."

Independent Entity Sunset Review: Heber Valley Historic Railroad Authority

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff on heritage railroads across the country and how they compare to Heber Valley Historic Railroad Authority (HVHRRRA). Received a [presentation](#) from HVHRRRA on reasons to extend the sunset date and allow HVHRRRA to remain an independent entity.

Action: Opened a committee bill file to extend HVHRRRA's sunset date by five years.

Post-retirement Reemployment

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff comparing Utah's post-retirement reemployment restrictions to those of other states. Discussed a proposal to modify Utah's restrictions.

Public Employees' Health Program (PEHP) Updates

Received an update from PEHP on the emerging challenge of highly expensive drugs and the impact of an individual embedded out-of-pocket maximum for families with high-cost members.

Sunset Review: Expanded Infertility Treatment Coverage Pilot Program

Received a [presentation](#) from PEHP on the results of the pilot program, which provides health insurance coverage for in vitro fertilization. The pilot program is scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2025.

Action: Opened a committee bill file to make the program permanent and remove the sunset date.

Updated Actuarial Calculations and Contribution Rates for Fiscal Year 2025

Received a [presentation](#) from Utah Retirement Systems on the actuarial experience study, which is conducted every three years, and the impact of the study on Tier 2 contribution rates for fiscal year 2025.

Utah Innovation Lab

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Innovation Lab on the purpose, status, stakeholders, and planned activities of the entity. Discussed legislative oversight of the Utah Innovation Lab.

Chairs: Rep. Cheryl K. Acton / Sen. Wayne A. Harper
Staff: Sarah Flanigan (Policy Analyst) / Alan Houston (Attorney) / Andrea Valenti Arthur (Managing Associate General Counsel) / Victoria Firmage (Administrative Assistant)

Revenue and Taxation

Income Tax: Upcoming Changes to the Internal Revenue Code

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff on upcoming changes to the Internal Revenue Code, including provisions of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act that will expire in 2025 or have already begun to phase out.

Income Tax Refunds

Reviewed 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Tax Refund Claim Amendments](#)," which would allow a person to object to a penalty or interest by paying the penalty or interest and requesting a refund, even if the person did not previously challenge the assessment of penalty or interest.

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Tax Refund Claim Amendments."

Individual Income Tax Act Amendments

Reviewed 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Individual Income Tax Act Amendments](#)," which would:

- modify the State Tax Commission's determination of domicile in Utah Code Section [59-10-136](#) for purposes of the individual income tax;
- establish an irrebuttable presumption of domicile in the state based on an individual's voting record;
- allow the State Tax Commission to consider evidence of certain tax filings in determining domicile; and
- repeal provisions addressing temporary absences from the state.

Action: Amended the 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Individual Income Tax Act Amendments," on line 79 to say "receives" instead of "claims" and approved the draft, as amended, as a committee bill.

Property Tax: Appeals of Assessed Value and the Impact on Taxing Entity Budgets

Received presentations from the Utah Association of Counties and the State Tax Commission on issues that taxing entities face when the owners of high-value properties in their districts are awarded new, lower valuations upon appeal of the original assessment.

Action: *Opened a committee bill file to address issues related to the valuation and appeals process for centrally assessed property.*

Property Tax: Circuit Breaker

Received a request from the State Tax Commission to review the definitions of "household income" and "nontaxable income" within Utah Code Section [59-2-1202](#) to determine whether certain sources of income should be taken into consideration for a property tax relief application. The State Tax Commission has also requested that the committee review the process of appealing to the State Tax Commission when a property tax relief claim has been denied on the grounds of late filing of claim.

Action: *Opened a committee bill file to address the State Tax Commission's concerns with "circuit breaker" property tax relief.*

Property Tax: Standards for Determining Acceptable Levels and Valuation Deviations Within Each County

Received a [report](#) from the State Tax Commission on standards for determining acceptable assessment levels and valuation deviations within each county.

Short-Term Rental Duration Definitions

Reviewed 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Short-term Rental Modifications](#)," which would modify the definition of "short-term rental" in Utah Code Section [59-12-102](#) to mean a lease or rental for less than 30 consecutive days and apply that definition to the taxes on accommodations and motor vehicles. For the rental of a transient room to be subject to sales tax, Utah Subsection [59-12-103\(1\)\(i\)](#) states that it must be rented for "less than 30 consecutive days." For the rental of a motor vehicle to be subject to a county option tourism sales tax, Utah Code Subsection [59-12-602\(12\)](#) states that it must be rented for a period of "30 days or less." Additionally, Utah Code Subsection [59-12-1201\(1\)](#) imposes a motor vehicle rental tax on all short-term leases and rentals of motor vehicles "not exceeding 30 days."

Action: *Approved as a committee bill 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Short-term Rental Modifications."*

Sunset Review: Provisions Related to the State Tax Commission

Considered 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[State Tax Commission Public Meeting Requirements](#)," which would remove the sunset dates for:

- Utah Code Section [59-1-213.1](#), which provides the State Tax Commission with the authority to make non-substantive changes to commission publications without holding a public meeting on the change; and
- Utah Code Section [59-1-213.2](#), which requires the State Tax Commission to make an electronic report to the committee confidentially summarizing any non-public meetings the commission held in the preceding 12-month period under the authority granted by Utah Code Section [59-1-405](#).

Action: *Approved as a committee bill 2024 General Session draft legislation, "State Tax Commission Public Meeting Requirements."*

Sunset Review: Provisions Related to the State Tax Commission's Consideration of Confidential Tax Matters

Considered 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[State Tax Commission Public Meeting Requirements](#)," which would remove the sunset date for Utah Code Subsections 59-1-405(1)(g) and 59-1-405(2)(b) that provide the State Tax Commission with the authority to have a meeting that is not open to the public to discuss with an employee of the commission the interpretation and application of a law administered by the commission.

Action: *Approved as a committee bill 2024 General Session draft legislation, "State Tax Commission Public Meeting Requirements."*

Chairs: Rep. Steve Eliason / Sen. Daniel McCay
Staff: Alex R. Janak (Managing Policy Analyst) / Chris Stitt (Policy Analyst) / Gus Harb (Attorney) / Andrea Valenti Arthur (Managing Associate General Counsel) / Victoria Firmage (Administrative Assistant)

School Security Task Force County Sheriffs and School Safety Security Coordination

Received an update on the requirement from 2023 General Session H.B. 61, "[School Safety Requirements](#)," that each county sheriff identify an individual in the sheriff's office to coordinate on school safety and security issues between the county sheriff's office, the state security chief, and other law enforcement officials in the county.

Firearm Detection Software and School Safety and Support Grant Update

Received an [update](#) from the State Board of Education (USBE) on the selection of a vendor for firearm detection software and the process for distributing money from the school safety and support grant. During the 2023 General Session, the Legislature appropriated \$3 million for firearm detection software and \$72 million for a grant program to provide local education agencies money to enhance basic physical safety and security in schools. USBE administers the grant program.

Roundtable Discussion

Engaged in additional discussion about the task force's statutory responsibilities.

School Threat Penalty Amendments

Received a presentation on 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[School Threat Penalty Amendments](#)," which would amend the penalties for individuals who make a hoax threat against a school, including students.

State Security Chief

Received a presentation on the state [security chief position](#), which was created by 2023 General Session H.B. 61, "[School Safety Requirements](#)," in the Department of Public Safety. The School Security Task Force will determine the qualifications, duties, and responsibilities for this position.

Chairs: Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox
Staff: Micah Ann Wixom (Policy Analyst) / Jeff Van Hulten (Attorney) / Taylor Calabrese (Administrative Assistant)

Transportation

Active Transportation

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Department of Transportation on the Active Transportation Investment Fund and the Utah Trails Network.

Received a presentation and [handout](#) from a legislator on canal trails and active transportation.

Action: Opened a committee bill file to create a strategy to synergize efforts between water conservation, canal improvements, and expansion of the active transportation trail network based on [suggestions](#) from a legislator.

Draft Legislation: Motor Vehicle Act Amendments

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff on 2024 General Session draft legislation, "[Motor Vehicle Act Amendments](#)."

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2024 General Session draft legislation, "Motor Vehicle Act Amendments," which would make statutory changes requested by the State Tax Commission.

Electrification of the transportation system

Received a [presentation](#) from the ASPIRE Research Center on the statewide transportation electrification initiative.

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Department of Transportation on the implementation of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program and the annual Road Usage Charge program report.

FrontRunner

Received presentations from the [Utah Department of Transportation](#) and the Utah Transit Authority on the future of FrontRunner and current projects.

Statutorily Required Report: Driver License Exam

Heard an [overview](#) of the Driver License Division's statutorily required report on driver license exam languages.

Chairs: Rep. Kay J. Christofferson / Sen. Wayne A. Harper
Staff: Rachel Brooks (Policy Analyst) / Braden Hess (Attorney) / Kurt P. Gasser (Managing Associate General Counsel) / Shay Berger (Administrative Assistant)



Committee Bill Files Opened by Legislative Committees For the 2024 General Session, as of September 21, 2023

Total number of committee bill files opened: 110

*Bills opened since the August interim meetings are in *italics*.

Administrative Rules Review and General Oversight

- School Board Notification Requirements
- Title IX Compliance
- Local School Board Modifications

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 3

Business and Labor

- Employment of Minors Amendments
- Corporate Dissolution Amendments
- Massage Therapy Practice Act Amendments
- Division of Consumer Protection Amendments
- Consumer Lender Notification Amendments
- Physician Assistant Practice Amendments
- Charitable Solicitations Act Amendments
- Behavioral Health Licensing Amendments
- *Insurance Amendments**
- *International Licensing Amendments**
- *State Construction and Fire Codes Amendments**
- *Construction Contract Amendments**
- *Commercial Filing Amendments**

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 13

Economic Development and Workforce Services

- Motion Picture Incentives Amendments
- State Rehabilitation Council Amendments
- Women in the Economy Subcommittee Amendments

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 3

Education

- Higher Education Financial Aid Amendments
- Concurrent Enrollment Revisions
- Sensitive Material Review Amendments
- SafeUT and School Safety Commission Amendments

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 4

Government Operations

- Certification of Local Entity Boundary Actions
- Joint Tenancy Presumption Amendments
- Uniform Real Property Transfer on Death Act Amendments
- County Recorder Amendments
- Electronic Voting Amendments
- Veterans and Military Affairs Commission Amendments
- Utah Seismic Safety Commission Amendments
- *Election Revisions**
- *Municipal and Special District Election Amendments**
- *State Boards and Commissions Amendments**

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 10

Health and Human Services

- Health and Human Services Funding Amendments
- Hospital Assessment Modifications
- Psychotropic Medication Oversight Pilot Program Sunset Amendments
- Mental Health Professional Licensing Amendments
- Behavioral Health System Amendments
- *Federal Funds Contingency Planning**
- *Fatality Review Amendments**
- *Behavioral Health Crisis Response Modifications**
- *Health and Human Services Amendments**
- *Health and Human Services Reporting Requirements**
- *Rehabilitation Services Amendments**

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 11

Judiciary

- Sexual Offenses Amendments
- Restitution Amendments
- Competency Proceedings Amendments
- Justice Court Modifications
- Employment Confidentiality Amendments
- Airport Firearm Offense Amendments
- *Data Privacy Amendments**

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 7

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

- Concealed Firearm Review Board Amendments
- Criminal Code Recodification
- Criminal Code Amendments
- Offender Registry Amendments
- *First Responder Mental Health Services Grant Program Amendments**
- *Firearm Modifications**
- *Drug Testing Amendments**

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 7

Legislative Water Development Commission

- Water Regulatory Structure Amendments
- Water Research and Innovation Amendments
- Water Infrastructure Amendments
- Water Capital Distribution Amendments
- Water Accounting Amendments
- Water Rights Advertising Amendments

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 6

Continued on next page

Committee Bill Files Opened by Legislative Committees For the 2024 General Session, as of September 21, 2023

Total number of committee bill files opened: 110

*Bills opened since the August interim meetings are in *italics*.

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

- Division of Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council Sunset Extension
- Safe Drinking Water Act Sunset Extension
- Natural Resources Boards and Commissions Amendments
- Mining Amendments
- Agriculture and Wildlife Damage Prevention Board Amendments
- Coal Miner Certification Panel Amendments
- Industrial Hemp Amendments
- Egg Sales Amendments
- Snake Valley Aquifer Advisory Council Amendments
- *Water Shareholder Amendments**

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 10

Political Subdivisions

- Metro Township Modifications
- Open and Public Meetings Act Amendments
- *Affordable Housing Utility Relocation Grant Amendments**

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 3

Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology

- Cybersecurity Training Requirements for State Employees
- Utah Energy Act Amendments

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 2

Retirement and Independent Entities

- Utah Communications Authority Modifications
- *Utah State Retirement Systems Revisions**
- *Postretirement Reemployment Modifications**
- *Employee Contribution Rate Amendments**
- *Phased Retirement Extension**
- *Infertility Treatment Coverage Amendments**
- *Heber Valley Historic Railroad Authority Sunset Amendments**

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 7

Revenue and Taxation

- Sales and Use Tax Revisions
- Mineral Production Tax Withholding Amendments
- Short-term Rental Modifications
- Property Tax Exemption Modifications
- Cigarette and Tobacco Tax and Licensing Act Amendments
- State Tax Commission Public Meeting Requirements
- Confidentiality of Tax Information Amendments
- Tax Refund Claim Amendments
- Tax Information Sharing Amendments
- Truth in Taxation Modifications
- State Property Valuation Tool Amendments
- Property Tax Act Amendments
- *Individual Income Tax Act Amendments**
- *Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution -- Residential Property Tax Exemption**
- *Property Tax Assessment and Appeals Amendments**
- *Property Tax Relief Amendments**
- *Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution -- Prohibition on Real Estate Transfer Tax**

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 17

Transportation

- Motor Vehicle Act Amendments
- Road Rage Amendments
- Transportation Utility Fee Amendments
- Scenic Byway Program Amendments
- Driving Under the Influence Modifications
- State Highway Designation Amendments
- *Active Transportation and Canal Trail Amendments**

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 7