



2024 Interim Study Items

Approved by the Legislative Management Committee | April 17, 2024

Business and Labor

Sen. Bramble and Rep. Maloy

Study Item	Description
Solar Panel and Roofing Consumer Protections	Study consumer protections related to solar panel sales and installation under RSEDA, as well as available protections for work performed by unlicensed contractors.
Consumer Protection Modifications	Consider alternatives to reduce fiscal impacts and re-organize funds for statutes administered by Consumer Protection.
Corporate Organization Structures	Consider model language proposed by the Uniform Law Commission proposing a hub-and-spoke structure for regulating corporate governance. Also, consider updating language throughout the corporations code for better uniformity and ease of application.
Licensing Mobility	Study military mobility for professional licensure in light of recent changes to federal law in the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022.
Mortgage Professional Licensing	Study discrepancies between state law and federal law for the licensing and regulation of mortgage professionals. Also, consider statutory changes for better consistency with generally accepted practice and uniform state laws.
Insurance Investment Vehicles	Consider recommended changes regarding the types of investments available to insurance producers to manage pooled funds.
Department of Commerce Audit	Review the Legislative Auditor’s report for audit 2023-14 regarding professional licensure, real estate, and securities. Also, consider any legislative recommendations resulting from the audit’s findings.
Child Actor Regulations	Study novel statutory regulations designed to protect minors employed in the creation of social media content.
Life Coaching Requirements	Study the creation of a professional license for individuals in the coaching industry.
DOPL Background Checks	Consider ways to increase cooperation between DOPL officials and law-enforcement agencies for licensees who are convicted of crimes. Also, consider the types of background checks available to DOPL and determine the appropriateness of different methods for licensed professions.
Trust Companies	Study existing regulations affecting trust companies. Consider statutory changes that would expand access to individuals with lower net worth or unconventional asset classes.
Property Insurance Ombudsman	Study the creation of a Property Insurance Ombudsman within the Insurance Department to provide mediation and arbitration services to property and casualty policyholders for small claim amounts.
Pharmacy Benefit Managers	Study pharmacy benefit managers and policy options regarding copay accumulators.
Office of Professional Licensure Review (OPLR)	Review recommendations from OPLR.
Other Items	Other business and labor items as needed.



Economic Development and Workforce Services

Sen. Winterton and Rep. Stenquist

Study Item	Description
Housing	<p>Review existing policies and regulations and examine how to increase the housing supply. Sub-topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report from the Commission on Housing Affordability and stakeholders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Introduce Steve Waldrip’s role. • Look at regulations around accessory dwelling units (ADUs). • Office of Homeless Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Annual report with trends, current programs, and recent legislation. ◦ Review the Homeless Mitigation Fund. ◦ 2024 General Session HB505 would have created a fund to compensate businesses around homeless service centers for property damage/loss.
Economic Development	<p>Review and align economic development initiatives within the state. Sub-topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the purpose and performance of economic development efforts, such as the Utah Small Business Development Center, Business Resource Center, Innovation Center, and Utah Innovation Fund, to reduce redundancy, streamline efforts, and share resources.
Workforce Services	<p>Study how to prepare people for the workforce. Subtopics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the purpose, function, and performance of the Refugee Services Office (RSO) within DWS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Utah Center for Immigration and Integration within GOEO. • Internship/apprenticeship programs for recent college/trade school graduates. • Work programs for underserved communities, including rehabilitation post-incarceration.
Tourism Development and Management	<p>Review Utah’s tourism economy. Subtopics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism economy – should the state focus on marketing or visitor mitigation? • Outdoor recreation to entice tourism.
Technology	<p>Study how to utilize technology to grow the economy. Subtopics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial Intelligence (AI) use. • Training programs on tech-sector skills. • Utah Broadband Center – review opportunities from the state and federal governments, as well as the impacts of existing opportunities.

Education

Sen. Johnson and Rep. Pierucci

Study Item	Description
General Information and Committee Process	
Funding Overviews	Informational overviews about how the state’s public education and higher education systems are funded.
Reports Due to the Education Interim Committee	Review the reports due to the Education Interim Committee and look for ways to streamline the reporting process and make other updates as necessary.
Higher Education	



Accreditation	Interim study on the higher education accreditation process and alternative accreditation options available to Utah (2024 General Session HJR 3).
Tuition and Fees	The Utah Board of Higher Education recently approved tuition increases (March board meeting). Hear an informational presentation on the changes.
School Safety	Given the increased attention on school safety issues, request a presentation on safety measures at the state’s institutions of higher education.
Items Requested by the Utah Board of Higher Education Staff	<p><u>Talent Ready Utah</u>: Update the committee Talent Ready Utah’s current projects (K-12 partnerships, work-based learning, etc.).</p> <p><u>The Point</u>: Provide an update on development of The Point, particularly the commercialization, innovation, and economic development portion of the project.</p> <p><u>Strategic Plan</u>: The board is currently revisiting their strategic plan; update the committee about anticipated changes to this plan.</p> <p><u>Utah College Advising Corps</u>: Informational presentation about this program, which places higher education advisors in high schools to assist counselors as they work with students in exploring options post-graduation. There are currently about 90 counselors placed at high schools around the state through this program. This program is largely funded by the board and housed at the University of Utah.</p>
Public Education	
Implementation and Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review mechanisms that governing bodies currently possess to ensure LEAs are implementing new programs. The Legislature and the State Board of Education make changes to statute and board rule that directly impact LEAs. Request information about who informs LEAs about these changes, how they are informed about these changes, and what they will need to do to implement them. Define what "general control and supervision" means (constitutional mandate for the State Board of Education).
English Learner and Refugee Students	<p>Overview of how LEAs serve English Learners (ELs) and refugee students, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding mechanisms and costs, particularly LEAs with increasing numbers of ELs and refugee students. Demographics and areas where these student populations are increasing.
Special Education	Informational overview on the basics of special education, including funding and state and federal requirements.
Student Discipline	<u>Gang prevention efforts</u> : Request a presentation about gang activity in schools and efforts at gang prevention in schools.
Student Absenteeism	Review issues of increasing absenteeism in schools, including if attendance needs to be part of student grades.
Criminal Investigation of School Employees	Ensure school employees who are under criminal investigation for child abuse are not around children at school during the investigation.
Student Teaching and Charter Schools	Review current processes for teacher preparation programs to assign students to LEAs for student teaching and look for ways to increase charter schools’ access to student teachers.
Ensuring Student Outcomes of Excellence in Reading, Writing, and Math	Review current educational practices to determine if there is a drop-off in the fundamental outcomes of students in the areas of literacy, math, and writing.



Items Submitted by Utah State Board of Education Leadership

Best Approaches to Teaching Math: An informational item from the State Board of Education about evaluating the way math is taught in Utah and discussing implementing a framework like that of science in reading.

Review of Funding of Mental Health in Schools: Review what mental health programs exist in schools, the amount of money being spent by the state on these programs, and the efficacy of the programs overall.

High School Graduation Requirements: Review existing requirements in statute and in board rule pertaining to high school graduation and identify potential revisions to improve education.

Data Reliability: Review past OLAG audits and review issues around reliability of LEA and state board data.

Flexibility:

- Explore options for providing more flexibility in assessments.
- Explore options for providing more flexibility to LEAs. Review the regulatory framework (statute and board rule) and the process the LEAs use to seek waivers.

Government Operations

Sen. Thatcher and Rep. Musselman

Study Item	Description
AI and Protection of Voter Signatures	Study the regulation of AI in relation to elections, including prohibiting the practice of copying, scanning, or using AI on signatures from petition packets and voter registration forms.
Administrative and Operational Modifications	Study various requests from stakeholders to make administrative and operational modifications, including procurement contract modifications and public notice.
Elections	Examine various election-related issues, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • availability of election documents; • ballot requirements and declarations of candidacy; • county vs. municipal election processes; • election security methods; • candidate nominating processes; • bifurcation of elections; and • personal data and voter registration records.
Boards and Commissions	Continue studying boards and commissions, including methods and metrics to identify boards and commissions to repeal and potential restraints and limits on new boards and commissions to address the growing number.
Division of Finance	Examine the Division of Finance’s functions, responsibilities, and services.
Petition Signatures	Examine the signature gathering process, including requests for removal of signatures and potential reinstatement of removed signatures.
Division of Facilities and Construction Management	Study policies to modify the Division of Facilities and Construction Management’s operational abilities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authority to enter into an Intergovernmental Support Agreement; and • revision of a schedule rate analysis or contingency funding to alleviate impacts associated with current Internal Service Fund rate-setting requirements.



Inspections of Stormwater Retention Systems	Study the inspection processes surrounding stormwater systems in construction and land development projects.
State Agency Contact Information	Study requiring state agencies and political subdivisions to post contact information on their website for each function or public service that the entity provides to the public.
Transient Residency Verification	Study voter registration requirements for transients who stay long enough in an area to register to vote but are not domiciled in the state and leave after casting their vote.
State Cyber Security Plan	Examine the future of cybersecurity assistance to cities and counties in light of the termination of federal funding.

Health and Human Services

Sen. Kennedy and Rep. Ivory

Study Item	Description
Contingency Planning for Continuity of Health and Human Services	Study the implementation of policy frameworks for responding to the next slowdown in state and federal funds available to Medicaid and other health and human services programs.
Licensed Healthcare Facilities	Consider options for ensuring the health and safety of individuals in licensed healthcare facilities.
Human Services	Consider options for improving policies affecting child welfare, individuals with a disability, individuals experiencing mental illness, etc. Subcategories include safe relinquishment of a newborn, a universal consent form for state agencies, and employment for people with intellectual disabilities.
Healthcare Reform	Consider options and issues related to holding down costs while improving the quality of healthcare for Medicaid, PEHP, and commercial market. Subcategories include pre-authorization requests for post-acute services, minimum requirements for freestanding emergency departments, pharmacy costs, and price transparency.
Miscellaneous	Conduct sunset reviews, respond to legislative audits, address recommendations included in statutorily required reports, and address other issues raised by committee members.

Judiciary

Sen. Weiler and Rep. Hawkins

Study Item	Description
Victim Services	Study victim services throughout the state, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any gaps in the availability of victim services; challenges related to state and federal funding sources; state expenditures on victim services and reparations; and opportunities for improving the efficiency of the provision of victim services.



Division of Child and Family Services	Assess the effectiveness of DCFS’s processes related to case management and investigations. The purpose of the study is to identify possible areas where DCFS’s processes can be improved to ensure the timely and thorough investigation of child abuse and neglect allegations.
Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing	Study prosecutor-initiated resentencing, a reform that several states have enacted that allows prosecutors to evaluate past cases and bring them forward to a court or parole board for possible resentencing. The goal of prosecutor-initiated resentencing is to potentially reduce sentences imposed under laws considered outdated or unduly punitive. This policy was initially incorporated into 2024 General Session SB213 “Criminal Justice Modification” but later removed as stakeholders determined that it would benefit from further study.
Bail and Pretrial Release	Study whether to repeal an unsecured bond (i.e., an individual’s promise to pay) as a method of payment for a financial condition of pretrial release. Additionally, study whether to create a crime for violating a pretrial release order. These provisions were included in versions of 2024 General Session HB474 “Criminal Justice Changes”, which did not pass.
Children’s Justice Center Interviews	Study current practices for interviewing children at Children’s Justice Centers (CJCs) about allegations of abuse, including any techniques, protocols, and accommodations employed in interviewing children with disabilities as they may be less able or willing to disclose abuse. A well-conducted CJC interview may elicit clear and reliable accounts from the child that can serve as vital evidence in a criminal case against an alleged abuser.
Administrative Law Judges	Study possible or perceived conflicts of interest resulting from the organization of administrative law judges under the executive branch agencies for which they adjudicate cases. This study item relates to 2024 General Session SB274 “Administrative Law Judge Amendments”, which passed but the governor vetoed.
Offender Management Software	Evaluate the effectiveness of the Department of Corrections’ offender management software O-Track and study whether an alternative system is needed. Developed in the 1990s, O-Track was designed to assist probation and parole officers with their supervision and monitoring of offenders in the community. Despite improvements over the years, two legislative audits released in 2022 identified deficiencies with the system and with its use by Adult Probation and Parole and the Board of Pardons and Parole.
High Frequency Offenders	Consider sentencing enhancements for habitual misdemeanants. 2024 General Session SB213 “Criminal Justice Modifications” defined “habitual offender” as it relates to an individual convicted of multiple felony offenses, but the bill did not address those convicted of multiple misdemeanor offenses.
Parental Contact and Protective Orders	Study how protective orders and sexual offense convictions affect child custody and visitation and explore whether statutory changes are needed to appropriately balance and ensure victim safety, parental rights, and the best interest of children.

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Sen. Grover and Rep. Wilcox

Study Item	Description
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Organized Crime	This will have an accompanying subcommittee. The committee will study current and emerging trends in Utah’s organized crime; including how current trends of illegal immigration contribute to the growth of theft rings and the state’s relationship with federal partners to enforce immigration laws and prosecute organized crime rings. Subcategories include deconstruction of modern criminal organizations, theft/gangs, drugs/trafficking, human trafficking/exploitation, and cyber security/digital crime. Cyber security and human trafficking will also look at emerging technologies impacting crimes like the metaverse, AI, and deepfakes.
Criminal Code Changes	This will have an accompanying subcommittee. The committee will study potential changes to the criminal code, including but not limited to ongoing efforts to recodify the code, recommended changes to the code, making DUI homicide a first-degree felony in some circumstances, simplifying code, and removing redundant or ineffective crimes.
School Safety & Security	This item will work in tandem with the School Security Task Force. The committee will study the implementation of 2024 General Session HB 84 , School Safety Amendments, and other 2023-2024 school security legislation for gaps.
First Responder Agency Operations	Study "Gold Standard" agency status (agency accreditation, agency quality standards & accountability, continuous improvement requirements), first responder mental health (gaps that may exist with the implementation of HB 378 and HB 67), first responder due process, and public safety data portal integration and reporting compliance.
Threats Against Individual Liberty and Safety	Focus on threats to individuals and families. Subcategories include domestic violence (protective orders, stalking), threats to public servants, cyber security threats and bullying, artificial intelligence implications and citizen protections, tracking victim targeting offenses that may not arise to the level of a crime, and Fourth Amendment considerations (citizen privacy, state cyber security standards, warrant processes, reverse keyword warrants/standard, and expungement).
Risk-based Criminal Management	Study how to reduce crime/recidivism. Subcategories include repeat offenders, pardons/parole, domestic violence, and the potential for a domestic violence pilot program in specialty courts, a risk-based sex, kidnap, and child abuse registry, and eliminating unnecessary or unchargeable crimes on the books.
Public Safety and Corrections	These topics may not be on the agenda but may still be reviewed or studied during the interim. They include protections around victims who are severely disabled/mentally incapacitated, covering ongoing costs for public safety answering points in counties of the third/fourth/fifth/sixth class, and crosswalks/pedestrian safety statutes.

During one interim we plan to meet off-site with the Department of Corrections where they will provide the committee with program updates and a tour of their new facilities.

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

Sen. Sandall and Rep. Brooks

Study Item	Description
E-Waste Recycling Funding	Study the disposal of electronics, specifically the cost of transporting electronic products to approved recyclers.
State Parks Access for Individuals with Disabilities	Study effective ways to increase state park accessibility.



Water	Study water issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canal corridors and trails in active transportation planning • Groundwater resources • Need for a state riparian specialist • Methods for measuring saved water • Fee authority for the Division of Drinking Water • Funding for water-related capital projects • Development of a water database
Statewide Agricultural Support System	Study issues related to local food supply chains.
Safeguarding of Private Property Owner Rights	Study issues related to the protection of private property ownership and rights, including compensation for a taking or damage to property by the public or wildlife.
Raw Milk	Study issues relating to raw milk and regulations, including during an outbreak.
Right to Repair	Study federal and state right to repair legislation.
Vertebrae Fossil Collection on State Lands	Study opening state lands for collecting of vertebrae fossils by commercial and/or amateur collectors, including possible fees and licenses.
Air Quality	Discuss air quality challenges, including challenges meeting the summertime Ozone standard.
Financial Assurance for Mining Operators	Study possible changes to Utah’s mineral bonding laws to reflect current financial assurance options utilized by industry and other states.
Non-Game Species Mitigation	Study how Utah can obtain non-federal funds for non-game species mitigation efforts.
State-to-State Agreements and Compacts	Discuss fire resource compacts, including the potential benefits to Utah of joining the Great Plains Compact.
Emerging Energy Policy Framework and Considerations	Establish new or updated frameworks for emerging energy sources in Utah, including consideration of barriers, grid integration, incentive programs, and other policy considerations.

Political Subdivisions

Sen. McKell and Rep. Dunnigan

Study Item	Description
Title 17, Counties, Recodification	Study recodifying Title 17, the counties statutes. This recodification began approximately 20 years ago and was never completed. The committee would study how to clean up and recodify the provisions of Title 17 that were not rewritten as part of the previous effort.
Municipal Incorporation Process	In-depth review of the municipality incorporation process, including feasibility studies, independent reviews by a volunteer board or the Land Use Ombudsman, and projected revenues vs. estimated cost.



Independent Entities Overview	General overview of 2024 General Session SB 154 Independent Entities Amendments , which created a best practices toolbox for independent entities. The committee would study the differences between the various independent entities and what makes them different.
Conditional Land Use Ordinances	Study possible changes to conditional land use laws.
Voting Precinct Size	Study increasing the population of voting precincts, as the population of the state increases.
Impact Fees Review	General overview of the use and application of impact fees by local governments. Are impact fees adding more to the cost of homes than originally intended, making it harder for new home buyers to build homes in the state? Does the state need to consider rebalancing the effect that impact fees have on housing affordability?
Higher Education Development Areas	Study potential development agreements between institutions of higher education and private developers relating to the development of property owned by the institutions of higher education. See 2024 General Session SB 190 Higher Education Development Areas Study .
Water Credits, Exactions, and Impact Fees on New Development	Study exactions of water rights by land use authorities.
Caucus Presidential Primary Preference	Study the recent presidential preference determination as part of the party caucus process.
Utah Housing Policy	Study the Legislative Audit 2023-16 A Performance Audit of Utah Housing Policy: A case study for statewide strategic planning and accountability. The Political Subdivisions Interim Committee was designated as the lead committee to review the audit findings and make recommendations.
Boundary Line Agreements	Study boundary line agreements vs adjustments and reconcile the old, survey boundary lines with new surveyed boundary lines using title professionals and county registrars.

Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology

Sen. Hinkins and Rep. Albrecht

Study Item	Description
Energy Production	Examine the various methods and processes involved in energy production, maintaining an all-of-the-above viewpoint while studying geothermal, nuclear, and other sources. This may include an assessment of the current landscape of energy production, identifying potential areas for improvement, and considering recommendations to ensure a reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy supply.
Grid Resilience	Investigate grid resilience measures, including strategies to mitigate the impacts of electromagnetic pulse (EMP) events and solar flares on the electrical grid. The committee may evaluate existing infrastructure vulnerabilities, explore technologies for grid hardening and protection, assess the potential consequences of electromagnetic disturbances on energy reliability, and consider recommendations to enhance grid resilience, safeguard against disruptive events, and ensure continuity of energy supply.



Utility Issues and Economic Impacts	Examine utility issues encompassing various factors affecting energy affordability and accessibility, including fluctuations in natural gas prices and their economic impacts. This may involve analyzing the drivers behind natural gas price increases and assessing their ramifications on consumer costs. The committee may consider recommendations to ensure stability, access to essential services, and economic resilience in the face of energy price volatility.
Project Entity Update	Receive a report from the Department of Natural Resources and the Division of Air Quality on the status of projects associated with a project entity.
Emerging Energy Policy Framework & Considerations	Study options for a comprehensive clean energy policy framework for Utah. The committee will evaluate potential frameworks for hydropower, nuclear, and geothermal energy, and identify barriers and opportunities to encourage their development. Additionally, the committee will explore strategies to encourage clean energy development opportunities in rural areas with a focus on establishing quality standards for maximum efficiency.

Revenue and Taxation

Sen. McCay and Rep. Eliason

Study Item	Description
Income Tax	Study various issues related to the individual income tax and corporate income tax, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the effectiveness and utilization of tax credits and the tax credit review process; the state’s responsiveness to changes in federal tax policy; and alternatives to the income tax.
Sales and Use Tax	Study various issues related to the sales and use tax including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evaluating transient room tax revenues, allocations, and uses; a review of the utilization of all local option sales taxes; and modifying the remote sales transaction test to eliminate burdensome reporting requirements.
Property Tax	Study various issues related to the property tax including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the centrally assessed property tax process; the locally assessed property tax process; property tax relief; and evaluating the Multicounty Appraisal Trust.
Other revenue and taxation issues	Study various revenue and taxation issues, as needed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mineral production tax withholding; and privilege tax.

Retirement and Independent Entities

Sen. Harper and Rep. Acton

Study Item	Description
Administrative and Technical Modifications	Consider annual URS cleanup language that represents administrative and technical cleanup language as opposed to substantive benefit or plan modifications with cost impacts.



AUREUS Project Overview	An overview of the AUREUS project, which is the upgrade of URS’ recordkeeping systems for the retirement plans.
Long-term Disability Program Benefits	PEHP’s long-term disability program has, in some ways, fallen behind market developments. Consider potential benefit changes to the Long-term Disability Program, including a three-month survivor benefit and a 60% pre-disability salary requirement for determining any occupation disability.
Overview of URS and Annual Comprehensive Financial Report	An overview of URS, including information on the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), investment returns, and funded status.
Preliminary Contribution Rates	Study of preliminary contribution rates.
Review of Independent Entities	Review independent entities, including the Public Service Commission, Utah Capital Investment Corporation, and new independent entities created during the 2024 session.
State Employee Compensation and Benefits	Study the state employee compensation and benefits package, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fringe benefits that are available to employees; • how the benefits package compares to the market overall; • benefits and leave options that state employees have that are atypical for the market; • improvements to employee salaries and wages by right-sizing state benefits offerings; and • consider allowing a state employee receiving Tier II retirement benefits to receive a biweekly match of up to 3% of the employee’s compensation to the employee’s 401(k).

Transportation

Sen. Harper and Rep. Christofferson

Study Item	Description
Long-term transportation planning	Study several items related to long-term transportation planning, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UTA’s long-range transit plan, project prioritization, federal funding, and debt • The future of light rail • Road capacity and population growth • Olympics transportation planning • Utah Trails Network • Station Area Plans • Ownership of state constructed transit infrastructure
Road Usage Charge (RUC) program	Review the current status of the RUC program and recommendations for the future.
Traffic safety	Review potential safety countermeasures to reduce traffic fatalities and discuss safety for all transportation system users. Items may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver license renewal process • Wrong-way driving • Reckless driving • HOV lane enforcement and LPR technology



Aeronautics

Study several items related to aeronautics and airports, including:

- Advanced Air Mobility
- Aircraft registration

Vehicle registration

Study motor vehicle registration, including length of registration and refund options.
