



MINUTES

SENATE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE

Monday, March 3, 2025 | 4:00 p.m. | 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. John D. Johnson, Chair
Sen. Heidi Balderree
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Michael K. McKell
Sen. Kathleen A. Riebe
Sen. Chris H. Wilson

Members Absent:

Sen. Lincoln Fillmore

Staff Present:

Micah Ann Wixom, Policy Analyst
Calvin Cruz, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to approve the minutes of February 28, 2025. The motion passed with a vote of 3 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 3

Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 0Absent - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

1. 1st Sub. H.B. 156 Education Board Amendments (*Thurston, N.*)

Rep. Thurston presented the bill.

Jennie Earl, resident, spoke in opposition of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to go to the next item on the agenda. The motion passed with a vote of 3 - 1 - 3.

Yeas - 3

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 1

Sen. D. Hinkins

Absent - 3

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

2. H.B. 390 Religious Expression in Higher Education (*Lisonbee, K.*)

Rep. Lisonbee presented the bill.

Stan Rasmussen, Director of Public Affairs, Sutherland Institute, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to pass H.B. 390 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 1 - 2.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 1

Sen. K. Riebe

Absent - 2

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell

3. 1st Sub. H.B. 100 Food Security Amendments (Clancy, T.)

Rep. Clancy presented the bill with the assistance of Emily Bell McCormick, president, The Policy Project.

[1 in 6 Utah Children is Hungry Presentation - H.B. 100 S1](#)

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to replace 1st Substitute H.B. 100 with 3rd Substitute H.B. 100. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 5

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0Absent - 2

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell

Sandy Snowden, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Neil Rickard, Child Nutrition Advocate, Utahns Against Hunger, spoke in favor of the bill.

Sheri Mattle, Safety Commissioner, Utah PTA, spoke in favor of the bill.

Jordan Bristle, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Avery Gonzales, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Adriele Fugal, Research Manager, University of Utah, spoke in favor of the bill.

Melissa Spencer, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mary Pike, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Wilson moved to pass 3rd Substitute H.B. 100 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 5

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0Absent - 2

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell

4. H.B. 168 Artificial Intelligence in Education (Defay, A.)

Rep. Defay presented the bill.

Tina Seastrand, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Riebe moved to pass H.B. 168 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 0Absent - 3

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

5. H.B. 246 Statewide Online Education Program Amendments (*Elison, J.*)

Rep. Elison presented the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Riebe moved to replace H.B. 246 with 1st Substitute H.B. 246. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 0Absent - 3

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

Meghan Merideth, executive director, Utah Virtual Academy, spoke to the bill.

Royce Van Tassel, executive director, Utah Association of Public Charter Schools, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Riebe moved to pass 1st Substitute H.B. 246 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 0Absent - 3

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

6. 2nd Sub. H.B. 169 State Board of Education Amendments (*Welton, D.*)

Rep. Welton presented the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Riebe moved to pass 2nd Substitute H.B. 169 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 0Absent - 3

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

7. H.B. 247 School Swimming and Lifeguarding Programs (*Ballard, M.G.*)

Rep. Ballard presented the bill with the assistance of Steve Marsing, Director of Swimming, Utah High School Athletics Association, and Jared Hendry, director, Wasatch Aquatic Center.

[Drownings in Utah 2011-2020 Handout - H.B. 247](#)

Rebecca Brown, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Maryann Martindale, CEO, Utah Association of Family Physicians, spoke in favor of the bill.

Sheri Mattle, spoke in favor of the bill.

Richard Ferguson, Black Physicians of Utah, spoke in favor of the bill.

Joshua Reusser, Salt Lake County Park and Recreation, spoke in favor of the bill.

Lex Hernandez-Nietling, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Riebe moved to pass H.B. 247 out favorably. The motion failed with a vote of 2 - 2 - 3.

Yeas - 2

Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 2

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. J. Johnson

Absent - 3

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

8. H.B. 268 Nonresident Online School Amendments (*Miller, T.*)

Rep. Miller presented the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Riebe moved to pass H.B. 268 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

9. H.B. 303 Public School Directory Sharing Amendments (*Acton, C.K.*)

Rep. Acton presented the bill.

Ben Parsley, superintendent, Granite School District Board of Education, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Lexi Cottingham, director, Utah School Boards Association, spoke in opposition of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to pass H.B. 303 out favorably. The motion failed with a vote of 2 - 2 - 3.

Yeas - 2

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. J. Johnson

Nays - 2

Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. K. Riebe

Absent - 3

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

10. 3rd Sub. H.B. 402 Foods Additives in Schools (*Chevrier, K.*)

Rep. Chevrier presented the bill with the assistance of Thomas Galligan, principal scientist, Center for Science in the Public Interest, and Scott Faber, senior vice president, Environmental Working Group.

[Food Additives in Schools Letter Handout - H.B. 402 S3.pdf](#)

Sen. Hinkins assumed the chair.

Sen. Johnson resumed the chair.

Glen Judd, resident, spoke in opposition of the bill.

Josh Redd, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Karalynne Call, CEO, Just Ingredients, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to pass 3rd Substitute H.B. 402 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

11. H.B. 424 School Activity Eligibility Commission Amendments (*Abbott, N.*)

Rep. Abbott presented the bill.

Marina Lowe, policy director, Equality Utah, spoke to the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to pass H.B. 424 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 1 - 2.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 1

Sen. K. Riebe

Absent - 2

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell

12. 1st Sub. H.B. 399 School Attendance Amendments (*Stoddard, A.*)

Rep. Stoddard presented the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Riebe moved to pass 1st Substitute H.B. 399 out favorably. The motion failed with a vote of 2 - 2 - 3.

Yeas - 2

Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 2

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. J. Johnson

Absent - 3

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

13. 4th Sub. H.B. 483 School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration Modifications (*Walter, N.*)

Rep. Walter presented the bill.

Jason Perry, Vice President for Government Affairs, The Hinkley Institute, University of Utah, spoke in favor of the bill.

Julie J. McAdams, attorney, Utah Forge Geothermal Research, University of Utah, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to pass 4th Substitute H.B. 483 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6Nays - 0Absent - 1

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. K. Riebe
Sen. C. Wilson

Sen. L. Fillmore

14. H.B. 537 Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Amendments (*Pierucci, C.*)

Rep. Pierucci presented the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to pass H.B. 537 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4Nays - 0Absent - 3

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

15. H.B. 462 Rural School Funding Amendments (*Auxier, T.*)

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to saunter. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4Nays - 0Absent - 3

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order.

Sen. Hinkins presented the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Riebe moved to pass H.B. 462 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4Nays - 0Absent - 3

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4Nays - 0Absent - 3

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:11 p.m.