

Approved Interim Study Items

2025

Office of Legislative Research and
General Counsel

April 15, 2025





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Business and Labor

Sen. Vickers and Rep. Maloy

Study Item	Description
Ticket Sale and Resale Practices	Consider issues and consumer complaints involving sales and resales of event tickets. Also, consider legislative trends at the federal and state level to address price increases, scalping, and other deceitful or unfavorable practices.
Corporate Organization Structures	Consider model language proposed by the Uniform Law Commission proposing a hub-and-spoke structure for regulating corporate governance. Consider updating language throughout the corporations code for better uniformity and ease of application.
Uniform Commercial Code	Review and consider amendments proposed by the Uniform Law Commission to Title 70A, Uniform Commercial Code, which was initially adopted by the Legislature in 1965. Also, review new articles proposed by the Uniform Law Commission to address emerging technologies.
Military Physician Pathways	Study how to coordinate and facilitate the transition to civilian practice for military-trained physicians.
Consumer Protection Registration	Consider recommendations from the Division of Consumer Protection regarding a consolidation and clean-up of registration processes for various entities regulated by Title 13, Commerce and Trade.
Insurance Market Updates	Review overall trends in insurance markets to assess ongoing impacts of enacted legislation and the need for further statutory changes. Study changes in premiums with a particular emphasis on property and casualty (P&C) and health insurance lines.
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.
Regulatory Sandbox Program	Evaluation of the regulatory sandbox program and consideration of potential changes to improve utilization of the program.
Identity Verification	Review policies for identity verification involving driver license information, including a discussion of protections against fraudulent IDs and recordkeeping requirements at establishments such as bars, liquor stores, and pharmacies.
Interstate Compacts	Broad examination of interstate compacts in the Utah Code, including how many have been adopted, how they are perceived by stakeholders, and recommendations for consideration of future interstate compact proposals.
Physician Right of Refusal	Study the feasibility of establishing a physician's right to refuse to provide a medical service and the conditions under which this would be appropriate (SB 320).
Kratom Regulations	Review the adequacy of current regulatory structures, trends in the production and distribution of Kratom products, and discuss potential improvements.



Professional Licensing Regulations	Review recommendations from the Office of Professional Licensing Review and other issues related to professional licensure.
Business Registration	Study the business registration renewal process and potential improvements.
Autism Services	Study how the insurance code addresses autism diagnosis and whether the code should be amended to expand coverage if autism is diagnosed by certain professions who have the authority to diagnose autism within their scope of practice.
Other Items	Other business and labor items as needed.

Economic Development and Workforce Services

Sen. Millner and Rep. Hawkins

Study Item	Description
Housing	Identify and review existing statutory housing policies and programs. Continuation/implementation of HCR14 .
Community Services Block Grant	Federal regulations require states to have a legislative hearing every 3 years to be eligible for the Community Services Block Grant. The Utah Department of Workforce Services last presented to the EDWS committee in 2022.
Tourism	Review of tourism-related investment funds, including those for film, recreation, sports, and marketing campaigns to attract tourism to the state. Subtopics may include: rural film incentive, tourism marketing fund, and the 2034 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
Workforce Services	Review business services and incentives to start, expand, or relocate businesses to Utah. Review the upcoming OLAG audit on the Department of Workforce Services. Subtopics may include: clarifying relationship between Talent Ready Utah/GOEO/DWS, job training and industry alignment, Office of Childcare (DWS).
Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity	Review the purpose, mission, goals, and programs of the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity. Continue the process of refining the programs started in HB542 . Includes presentations from industry associations for the targeted industries GOEO identified. Subtopics may include: review APEX Accelerator Program, business services.
Food Insecurity	Study food insecurity and the potential impact on senior citizens.



Education

Sen. Johnson and Rep. Pierucci

Study Item	Description
Arts Education	Overview of arts education in the state. This includes looking at the Beverly Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Learning Program.
Administrator Salaries in Public Education	A statewide overview and study of public-school administrator salaries in the state.
U.S. Department of Education	Review changes to the Department of Education and other federal education programs made by the current administration.
Utah High School Activities Association	Review the role of the Utah High School Activities Association and the state's relationship with the association.
LEA Employee Disciplinary Action	<p>Study the landscape for LEA disciplinary actions and how schools address issues of child abuse and misconduct in schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Review local and state discipline procedures for LEA employees.▪ Review the process for background checks.▪ Review the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission (UPPAC). This includes finding solutions to the backlog of cases UPPAC is facing and how to prevent further backlogs.
State Board of Education Governance	Review the State Board of Education's response and efforts to address recommendations from Audit 2021-04 , "A Performance Audit of the Utah State Board of Education's Internal Governance."
Special Education	Overview of special education in the state. This includes looking at learning disabilities, screening methods, and other items related to special education.
Charter Schools	Review of the charter school landscape, including charter authorizers and charter school funding.
Building Costs in Higher Education and Public Education	Review building costs for K-12 and higher education to understand the variance in price across different projects.
Reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Review reports due to the Education Interim Committee.2. Review reports required from local education agencies.
Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (USDB)	HB 2 (2025) requires the Utah State Board of Education, in consultation with the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee, to review USDB's governance, funding, scope of services, and capital facilities.
Chronic Absenteeism	Review specific policy solutions to address chronic absenteeism.
Simplifying the Education Code	Study education code (Titles 53E, 53F, 53G) for ways to make the code more accessible for educators and parents.
Utah Board of Higher Education Strategic Plan	The Utah Board of Higher Education adopted a strategic plan in 2024; the board will update the committee on their progress on the plan.



Strategic Reinvestment Plan	Hear a report on the strategic reinvestment plans required of each institution of higher education in HB 265 (2025).
Utah Board of Higher Education	Hear a report on recent board action on the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The board's new policy on institutional statements acknowledging relationships with tribes and ancestral lands (R252). 2. Institutions' 2025 tuition and fees increases approved by the board.
Higher Education Shared Services	Hear an update on implementation of shared services across institutions of higher education within the Utah System of Higher Education.
Higher Education Recodification	Study options for recodifying the higher education code, Title 53B.
Utah State Board of Education Program Oversight Reports	Report on programs over which the state board has oversight.

Government Operations

Sen. Winterton and Rep. Burton

Study Item	Description
Voter Identification	Study the effectiveness of Utah's voter identification laws, including a thorough legal analysis of recent court challenges, a legislative history and comparison of other states' voter identification laws, and an analysis of relevant data.
Voter Registration	Examine the process for registering to vote, the maintenance of voter registration lists, and the availability of a voter's information contained within the voter's registration record.
Signature Gathering and Verification	Evaluate the process for gathering signatures and verifying signatures for both candidate petition nominations and ballot measures, including a review of recent audits from the Office of the Legislative Auditor General and Office of the State Auditor.
Election Administration	Study election administration processes and procedures for potential efficiency improvements, including a review of recent audits from the Office of the Legislative Auditor General. Specific subtopics include write-in candidate ballot counting requirements, vote tabulation equipment and systems, and election results reporting.
General Government	Review of general government operations processes and procedures, including an examination of the following subtopics/issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of the Office of the Legislative Auditor General report 2024-18, Performance Audit of Credit Card State Processing Fees.



- Examine the document authentications function currently under the Lieutenant Governor’s Office, including staffing, budgets, office space, etc.
- Study the Division of Facilities and Construction Management’s (DFCM) operating and bid procedures, historical charges to state agencies, allocations for overhead, labor, and material costs, as compared to the private sector.
- Evaluate potential cost-savings and efficiencies if DFCM managed certain projects balanced with other relevant factors.
- Provide input into the Department of Government Operations (DGO), Division of Technology Services, study of state-endorsed digital identity.
- Receive an update on state agencies’ use of artificial intelligence.

Health and Human Services

Sen. Grover and Rep. Bolinder

Study Item	Description
Healthcare Cost	Consider opportunities to reduce healthcare costs while improving the quality of healthcare services. Subcategories include considering the Public Employees Health Program pharmacy benefit manager program, reducing medical waste in healthcare facilities, and increasing healthcare cost transparency.
Medicaid	Study issues related to the Medicaid program, including the status of Medicaid spending and service delivery in rural areas.
Substance Use and Behavioral Health	Subcategories for study include the possible implementation of a virtual opioid dependency program, medication-assisted treatment standards of care, and reviewing the use of funds in the Alcoholic Beverage and Substance Abuse Enforcement and Treatment Restricted Account.
Electronic Cigarette Regulation	Study the implementation of the ban on flavored electronic cigarette products and assess whether regulatory changes are needed for general retail locations that sell electronic cigarette products.
Nurse Practice in Schools	Study the role of school nurses in Utah’s schools.
Office of Medical Examiner	Study issues related to the Office of Medical Examiner, including release of the body to family, cremation issues, and court testimony.
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. Gricius

Study Item	Description
Judicial Operations	Study ways to strengthen the efficiency and impartiality of the judiciary, including judicial retention and the process for reassigning cases when judges recuse themselves.
Attorney Licensure	Study models used in other states for licensing attorneys, including those that use regulatory bodies separate from the state bar association.
Judicial Productivity	Examine appellate court productivity and explore ways to improve caseload management. During the 2025 legislative session, concerns about judicial productivity prompted discussions about expanding the appellate courts.
Child Custody	Study the financial burdens parents face when defending against custody challenges, such as legal costs and career interruptions. Additionally, evaluate domestic violence risks in co-parenting and child custody disputes.
Recording Physical and Medical Examinations	Consider potential changes to Rule 35 of the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, which addresses court-ordered physical or mental examinations when a person's condition is in controversy. The rule allows these examinations to be recorded unless the requesting party can demonstrate that recording would "unduly interfere with the examination." The Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure generally supports recording, but some defense attorneys and examiners argue that recordings may discourage examiners from participating.
Domestic Violence Risk Assessment	Evaluate the effectiveness of Utah's current DV risk assessment, such as the lethality assessments used by law enforcement to identify victims at immediate risk. Explore ways to better integrate DV risk assessment tools throughout the criminal justice process, including tools that estimate the likelihood of reoffense based on factors like prior convictions and substance abuse.
Bills Impacting Criminal Penalties	Identify tools and processes to help the Legislature more systematically review bills that create or increase criminal penalties. Additionally, review recent legislation impacting criminal penalties and assess their impact on criminal justice costs and outcomes.
Family Law Amendments	Following recodifications of Utah's domestic relations statutes over the last two sessions, solicit and study suggestions for more substantive amendments from the family law section of the Utah State Bar. This mirrors past efforts to gather input from the estate planning section following estate statute recodifications.



Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Sen. Musselman and Rep. Wilcox

Study Item	Description
Methods of Reducing Crime	Research ways to reduce crime in Utah by studying the solvability of violent crime, root causes of criminality, and other state methods for reducing crime. Review whether sex offenses in Utah are increasing, and if so, the cause of the increase.
Department of Corrections/Jails and Prisons	Explore housing options for incarcerated individuals who are reentering society, alternative solutions to incarceration, and ways to address Utah's jail and prison capacity needs. Compare Utah's incarceration rates with other U.S. state incarceration numbers. Look into funding options for DOC operations and review revised parole conditions that are effective July 1, 2025.
Digital Evidence/Law Enforcement Investigation Protocols	Study methods to improve law enforcement's process of seizing and returning digital evidence in criminal cases. Determine ways to protect victim privacy when law enforcement seizes digital devices while balancing a defendant's right of due process. Discuss whether there should be limitations on how long a criminal investigation can last without a decision or conclusion.
Use of AI and Advancing Technology in the Criminal Realm	Review law enforcement's current use of Artificial Intelligence (including drones) to determine how these technologies should be used in law enforcement investigations. Research the metaverse and how it may impact crime and public safety. Study crimes related to cryptocurrency and the need for uniformity across state agencies to address cryptocurrency-related offenses.
Law Enforcement (Programs and Resources)	Look into the long-term sustainability of Utah's first responder mental health program. Review other law enforcement programs like Utah's Firearms Safe Harbor Program, law enforcement due process in internal investigations, and licensing law enforcement equipment through contractors. Review the implementation and long-term solution for school security (including what agencies are responsible for staffing school crossing guards).
Domestic Violence and Other Abuse	Examine the definition of human trafficking and domestic violence. Study the use of location-tracking devices in relation to stalking.
Policy Process	Review whether there should be a more comprehensive approach to criminal justice policy. This may include how to capture long-term incarceration costs in fiscal notes and creating an analysis process to inform policy makers on the impacts of proposed policies.



Other

Review the status of Utah's criminal justice data portal, evaluate the policy framework for public assistance fraud, and look at whether DPS or DABs should have administrative authority to set regulations on retailers illegally selling alcohol.

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

Sen. Stratton and Rep. Albrecht

Study Item	Description
SITLA Land Disposal	Study the disposal of land by SITLA, including the Promise Rock Development and Yuba Reservoir property sale.
GSL Dust Suppression	Study strategies to maximize effectiveness and to mitigate the cost of dust suppression efforts at the Great Salt Lake.
Predator Control	Study predator control issues, including the status of Utah's agreement with Colorado related to wolves and the impact of predators on big game populations.
Weather Geoengineering	Study issues related to weather geoengineering.
Geothermal Resource Ownership	Study geothermal resource ownership.
Rocky Mountain Power	Study progress by Rocky Mountain Power on plans to separate from PacifiCorp.
State Park Accessibility	Study ways to improve state park accessibility.
Used Oil Program	Study possible adjustments to the used oil program.
Utah Miners Hospital	Study issues related to the structure of the Utah Miners Hospital.
Agriculture Issues	Study agricultural topics, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ How to help farmers participate in and benefit from agritourism activities, such as possible changes to the regulation of the use of farm buildings.▪ How to minimize the loss of Utah's agricultural land.
Water Issues	Study water-related issues recommended by the Water Development Commission.
Critical Minerals	Study Utah's critical mineral portfolio, including minerals currently in production, defined resources, exploration projects, and potential prospects.
Wildfires Risk	Study the risk of wildfires and lessons learned from the recent Los Angeles wildfires and how the state may be exposed to similar risks.



Political Subdivisions

Sen. Ipson and Rep. Dunnigan

Study Item	Description
Title 17 Recodification	Study recodifying Title 17. This recodification began last year, and the committee decided that it needed more time. The committee would study how to clean up and recodify the provisions of Title 17 that have become disorganized and sometimes conflict.
Fiscal Procedures for Political Subdivisions	Study the uniform fiscal act for towns, cities, and counties. Consider statutory solutions to clean up and clarify the uniform fiscal act, in conjunction with the work being done to recodify Title 17.
Municipal Annexation and Incorporation	Study the municipal annexation statutes, annexation plans, zoning requirements of unincorporated areas pre-annexation, and the plans for zoning in those areas post-annexation, possible prohibition against applying a more restrictive zoning for at least one year after annexation, and compensation for property value reduction attributed to annexation or incorporation. (see SB 322, 2025)
Zoning Policies for Housing	Work with cities and counties to find a better balance of zoning policies that are more conducive to the building of smaller housing and more affordable housing, while honoring the needs of individual cities to tailor growth to unique local needs.
Statewide Housing Plan	The Governor has been working on a statewide housing plan, which should come into better focus this interim. The committee should review those efforts and study any recommended statutory changes that would help implement the best parts of that plan.
County Classification	Study the statutory requirements for county classification and the impact the classifications have on small and rural communities.
County Form of Government	Study the various county forms of government and identify which counties use each form of government. Should the state consider “triggers” that would require a county to automatically increase the size of a county council or other forms of governance as the county population grows? What are the pros and cons of the county commission vs the county council form of government and which counties use which form of government?

Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology

Sen. Owens and Rep. Jack

Study Item	Description
Nuclear manufacturing facilities	Examine opportunities for nuclear manufacturing facilities.
Large-load user energy demands	Continue to examine & discuss how to meet the energy demands of data centers.



Role of renewables	Given the need for dispatchable base load power, what is the proper role for renewables in Utah? Is there any role at all?
Permitting requirements for solar power plants	Study permitting requirements for solar power plants.
Securitization	Securitization is a form of financing where a company pools various income generating assets and sells the cash flow to a third-party investor as "securities". Utility use requires legislation that guarantees irrevocable charge; right to bill and collect a dedicated special tariff until bonds paid in full; mandatory true-up.
National & regional energy trends	Examine energy trends in resource adequacy, FERC transmission development efforts, and western market development.
Nuclear development efforts	Ongoing examination & discussion of nuclear energy development.
Utah Broadband Center updates	Grant money for broadband deployment will be distributed in the year; hear updates on the status of applications and grants.
Drinking Water Utilities Amendments (cybersecurity)	This proposed legislation will require a community water system to complete a security plan and report a security breach to the Utah Cyber Center within two hours of discovering the breach. This is a follow-up of 2025 HB 492 that did not pass.
Potential energy producers	Engage with potential new energy producers who are looking to build in Utah.

Retirement and Independent Entities

Sen. Harper and Rep. Acton

Study Item	Description
Independent Entities	Examine independent entities, including review of new independent entities created during the 2025 General Session.
PEHP	Receive updates regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PEHP system transition, new copay tool, and other new features of plan coverage; and ▪ Implementation of H.C.R. 2 (2025 General Session), that directs the Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program to give the estimated value of pharmaceutical rebates to state plan members at the point of sale.
Utah Retirement Systems	Administrative and Technical Modifications to Retirement Study potential administrative and technical modifications for Title 49, Utah State Retirement and Insurance Benefit Act.



AUREUS Project Overview

Examine URS' AUREUS Project, a system upgrade of Utah Retirement Systems' record-keeping systems for retirement plans.

Line-of-Duty Death Benefit

Study the line-of-duty death benefit that provides a percentage of the URS member's pension to their spouse for the duration of their lifetime if the member was enrolled in Tier 1 or Tier 2 Hybrid Retirement System, and whether a similar benefit should be provided in the Tier 2 Defined Contribution Plan.

Overview of URS and Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Receive an overview of URS and review URS' Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), investment returns, and funded status.

Preliminary Contribution Rates

Study preliminary contribution rates for the next fiscal year, as approved by the Utah State Retirement Board, for the retirement systems and plans administered by URS.

Revenue and Taxation

Sen. McCay and Rep. Eliason

Study Item	Description
Income Tax	The committee will 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 state's responsiveness to changes in federal tax policy.
Sales and Use Tax	The committee will study various issues related to the sales and use tax, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Evaluating Tourism, Recreation, Cultural, Convention, and Airport Facilities Tax revenues, allocations, and uses.
Property Tax	The committee will study various issues related to the property tax, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Truth in Taxation process;▪ Property tax relief; and▪ Tax increment financing.
Other revenue and taxation issues	The committee will study various revenue and taxation issues, as needed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mineral production tax withholding; and▪ Severance tax.



Transportation

Sen. Harper and Rep. Christofferson

Study Item	Description
Emerging Technology	Study several items related to emerging technology, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ spaceports;▪ electrification, including EV charging, electric aircraft chargers, and an update from the ASPIRE Center; and▪ data privacy related to vehicles collecting data on driver behavior, location, and other consumer privacy concerns.
Towing	Study recent changes to towing regulation and current practices, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ towing rotation;▪ approved tow yards; and▪ vehicles being towed to an adjacent county.
Transportation Funding	Hear a general overview of transportation funding sources, and discuss several items related to transportation funding, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ corridor preservation funding;▪ federal funding;▪ gas tax;▪ local option sales taxes;▪ Road Usage Charge (RUC) program;▪ tolling; and▪ transit funding.
Transportation Planning	Study several items related to transportation planning, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ corridor preservation;▪ long-range transportation planning, including planning for population growth;▪ land use including Station Area Plans, Housing and Transit Reinvestment Zones, and other density tools;▪ bridge condition;▪ the future of the Lake Powell ferry;▪ Transportation Commission prioritization process & governance.
Traffic Safety	Study several items related to traffic safety, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ road rage follow-up, including left lane loafing strategies and data;▪ strategies to improve traffic safety, including red light or speed cameras; and▪ vehicle headlight brightness, including after-market LED lights.
Vehicle Registration	Study several items related to vehicle registration and DMV services, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ trailer registration;▪ vehicle emissions testing;▪ county-run DMV offices;▪ aircraft registration;▪ vintage vehicles.