



Interim Highlights

September 2025, Vol. 25, No. 4



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List of Committee Bills for the 2026 General Session
As of September 18, 2025

Legislative Interim Meetings

Meetings were held September 16, 2025, or as noted

Business and Labor

DABS: Identity Verification

Received a [presentation](#) from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services (DABS) and heard comments from the Department of Public Safety outlining the processes and procedures in place to verify the age of individuals when purchasing alcohol at restaurants, bars, and retail DABS locations in the state.

Office of Artificial Intelligence Policy: 2025 Annual Report

Received a [presentation](#) from the Office of Artificial Intelligence Policy outlining the office's work over the past year, including a status update on the AI regulatory relief program, the learning laboratory's analysis of regulatory issues involving deepfakes and AI companions, and a review of the office's ongoing legislative support for policy questions in artificial intelligence.

OPLR Prioritization of Licensing Reviews

***Action:** Discussed and approved proposed 2026 periodic reviews from the Office of Professional Licensure Review.*

Regulatory Sandbox Update

Received a [presentation](#) from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity Office of Regulatory Relief on the regulatory sandbox program's operations, outcomes, and direction.

Chairs: Rep. A. Cory Maloy / Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Staff: Rohnin Randles (Policy Analyst) / Robert Wood (Policy Analyst) / Tyler Moore (Associate General Counsel) / Austin Weenig (Associate General Counsel) / Kaelie Mortensen (Administrative Assistant)

Economic Development and Workforce Services

Legislative Audit: Department of Workforce Services

Received a [presentation](#) from the Office of the Legislative Auditor General on the *Systemic Audit of the Department of Workforce Services*. Received an [update](#) from the Department of Workforce Services on progress in response to the audit's findings.

Blockchain, Digital Innovation, and Artificial Intelligence

Received a [presentation](#) from the Office of Data Privacy regarding data governance and the duties, responsibilities, and challenges of the office.

Heard comments from Satoshi Action Fund on how blockchain technology is used and national policy trends regulating blockchain technology.

Heard comments from the Utah Blockchain Coalition on Utah's leadership role in blockchain governance, and how the model might best be shared with other states.

Office of Homeless Services Report

Received a [presentation](#) from the Office of Homeless Services on its data dashboard, including a legislative history of the dashboard, the goal of "functional zero" for homeless services, and recent trends such as length of homelessness and the number of people entering and leaving homelessness.

Workforce Services Overview

Received a [presentation](#) from the Department of Workforce Services and the Division of Workforce Development on programs the division administers, including the impacts, industry needs, labor market information, and other services.

Chairs: Rep. Jon Hawkins / Sen. Ann Millner
Staff: Sivan Nizan (Policy Analyst) / Rhonda Bailey (Associate General Counsel) / Samantha Merrell (Administrative Assistant)

Education

EdTech App Data Sharing Report

Received a [presentation](#) from the State Board of Education and Brigham Young University researchers on a recent investigation into the current state of student data privacy in educational technology applications used in the state.

Legislative Audit: School Construction Process

Received a [presentation](#) from the Office of the Legislative Auditor General on *A Performance Audit of Public School Construction Standards and Efficiency* and heard a [response](#) from the State Board of Education.

Legislative Reports

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff on reports required to be submitted to the committee.

School Data Amendments Report

Received a [report](#) from the State Board of Education on findings from a study on student information systems, as required by 2025 General Session H.B. 508, "[School Data Amendments](#)."

Chairs: Rep. R. Neil Walter / Sen. John D. Johnson
Staff: Finn Andrew Rose (Policy Analyst) / Micah Ann Wixom (Policy Analyst) / Tyler Keetch (Associate General Counsel) / Jeff Van Hulten (Associate General Counsel) / Mike Curtis (Managing Associate General Counsel) / Amy Hawkes (Administrative Assistant)

Government Operations

Draft Legislation: Voting Equipment Amendments

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2026 General Session draft legislation, "[Voting Equipment Amendments](#)," which would amend provisions related to voting equipment.

Signature Gathering and Verification

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff providing an overview of electronic signature gathering in Utah and other jurisdictions. Also received a demonstration from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Utah's electronic signature gathering platform.

Actions: Opened a committee bill file to sunset manual signature gathering and improve the electronic signature gathering process.

Approved as a committee bill 2026 General Session draft legislation, "[Signature Verification Revisions](#)," which would amend provisions related to candidate nomination petitions.

Approved as a committee bill 2026 General Session legislation, "[Candidate Petition Amendments](#)," which would amend provisions related to candidate nomination petitions.

Sunset Review: Purchase from Community Rehabilitation Programs

Received information from the Division of Purchasing and General Services regarding the purpose and implementation of Section 63G-6a-805, Purchase from community rehabilitation programs, which is scheduled to sunset on July 1, 2026.

Action: Opened a committee bill file to extend the sunset date of Section 63G-6a-805 for up to 10 years and to establish accountability measures for future evaluation of the program.

Voter Identification

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff related to voter identification when voting in person, including an analysis of federal case law, Utah's current law, and a comparison of other states' voter identification laws.

Chairs: Rep. Jefferson S. Burton / Sen. Ronald M. Winterton
Staff: Kirsy Jarvis (Policy Analyst) / Megan L. Bolin (Senior Policy Analyst) / Michael Cipriano (Associate General Counsel) / Thomas R. Vaughn (Managing Associate General Counsel) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

Health and Human Services

Dental Care for Medicaid Patients

Received a [presentation](#) from the University of Utah School of Dentistry on the progress of Medicaid dental benefits in Utah.

Health Plan Provider Directory Amendments

Discussed potential language for the committee's bill file "Health Plan Provider Directory Amendments," which would amend provisions related to health insurance provider directories.

Office of Homeless Services Update

Received a [brief](#) from the Office of Homeless Services on current efforts to address homelessness.

Legislative Audit: Performance Audit of the All-Payers Claims Database

Received a [presentation](#) from the Office of the Legislative Auditor General on A Performance [Audit](#) of the All-Payers Claims Database.

Rural Health Transformation Program

Received a [presentation](#) from the Department of Health and Human Services on the Rural Health Transformation Program, efforts related to the development of Utah's rural health transformation plan, the timeline for plan submission, and other related information.

Draft Legislation: Utah Commission on Aging Sunset Amendments

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2026 General Session draft legislation, "[Utah Commission on Aging Sunset Amendments](#)," which would extend the sunset date for the Utah Commission on Aging for five years.

Chairs: Rep. Katy Hall / Sen. Keith Grover

Staff: Lisa Sorensen (Policy Analyst) / Seth Anderson (Policy Analyst) / Amy Shewan (Associate General Counsel) / Christopher Williams (Associate General Counsel) / Kami Orton (Associate General Counsel) / Gabi Prior (Administrative Assistant)



Judiciary

Draft Legislation: Correctional Facility Capacity

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2026 General Session draft legislation, "[Correctional Facility Capacity Amendments](#)," which would create the Corrections Facility Expansion Restricted Account for the purposes of expanding existing, or constructing new, state correctional facilities.

Draft Legislation: Courts Rules on Admissibility of Evidence

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2026 General Session draft legislation, "[Joint Resolution Amending Rules of Evidence Concerning Crimes or Other Acts](#)," which would amend Rule 404 of the Utah Rules of Evidence to expand the admissibility of evidence of prior crimes or acts in child molestation and sexual assault cases.

Draft Legislation: Juvenile Justice

Received a [presentation](#) from a legislator related to 2026 General Session draft legislation, "[Juvenile Justice Amendments](#)," which would address how school-based drug offenses are reported and investigated, define juvenile and school-based recidivism, and limit the eligibility of certain offenses for nonjudicial adjustments and expungement.

Draft Legislation: Public Land Access

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2026 General Session draft legislation, "[Public Land Access Amendments](#)," which would repeal the requirement that under certain circumstances an individual is required to hold authorization to hunt or fish to access wildlife management areas.

Chairs: Rep. Karianne Lisonbee / Sen. Todd Weiler

Staff: Jonathan Adams (Policy Analyst) / Jacqueline Carlton (Senior Associate General Counsel) / Paige Nelson (Associate General Counsel) / Naomi Garrow (Administrative Assistant)

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Board of Pardons and Parole Metrics Report

Received a [presentation](#) from the Board of Pardons and Parole on its annual [report](#), which included metrics such as recidivism, time under board jurisdiction, prison releases, parole revocations, and alignment with sentencing guidelines.

Draft Legislation: Stalking Amendments

Received a [presentation](#) from a legislator and the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office on 2026 General Session draft legislation, "[Stalking Amendments](#)," which would increase the penalty for stalking if an actor unlawfully entered a victim's home.

Offenses Committed by Minors Report

Received a [presentation](#) from the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice on its annual [report](#) describing juvenile court referrals, offenses, and recidivism.

Sexual Assault Data

Received a [presentation](#) from the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice on state and national sexual assault data and reporting trends.

The Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory

Received a [presentation](#) from the Intermountain West Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory on digital evidence processing and timelines, current and past caseloads from participating and nonparticipating agencies, quality standards, and state contributions to the lab's budget.

Chairs: Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox / Sen. Calvin R. Musselman
Staff: Lacey Johnson (Policy Analyst) / Taylor Calabrese (Policy Analyst) / Shad Larson (Associate General Counsel) / Jackie Rogers (Associate General Counsel) / Amy Hawkes (Administrative Assistant)

Legislative Process Committee

August 22, 2025

Draft Resolution: House Rules Resolution - Abandoning Legislation

Received a presentation from a legislator regarding 2026 General Session, "[House Rules Resolution - Abandoning Legislation](#)," which would establish a process for a chief sponsor to abandon a numbered bill.

Draft Resolution: Joint Rules Resolution - Legislative Subcommittee Amendments

Received a presentation from a legislator regarding 2026 General Session, "[Joint Rules Resolution—Legislative Subcommittee Amendments](#)," which would allow a legislative subcommittee to consist of members who are legislators and members who are not legislators.

Draft Resolution: Joint Rules Resolution - Sponsor's Supporting Information

Received a presentation from a legislator regarding 2026 General Session, "[Joint Rules Resolution—Sponsor's Supporting Information](#)," which would establish a process for a chief sponsor to provide supporting information about the sponsor's legislation that is posted to the bill page on the Legislature's website.

Legislative Resolutions

Discussed potential rules and procedural changes to make legislative resolutions more purposeful, including utilizing citations more as the primary method of honoring or supporting groups and events.

Potential Legislative Rules Changes

Received a presentation from committee staff and discussed [potential changes](#) to legislative rules.

Action: Opened three committee bill files, a House Rules Resolution, a Senate Rules Resolution, and a Joint Rules Resolution, to address the changes discussed and any other needed clean-up items.

Chairs: Rep. James A. Dunnigan / Sen. Lincoln Fillmore
Staff: John Q. Cannon (Director) / Megan L. Bolin (Senior Policy Analyst) / Victoria Ashby (General Counsel) / Christine R. Gilbert (Deputy General Counsel) / Victoria Firmage (Administrative Assistant Team Lead)

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

Biosolids Disposal

Received a [presentation](#) and [handout](#) from the Wasatch Front Water Quality Council and Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility regarding the challenges of biosolids management and disposal.

Draft Legislation: Used Oil Management Act Amendments

Received a [presentation](#) from the Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control regarding 2026 General Session draft legislation, "[Used Oil Management Act Amendments](#)," which would amend the Used Oil Recycling Act.



Federally Managed Public Lands

Heard from the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office regarding the findings from the land applications survey [report](#).

Glass Recycling Study

Received a [presentation](#) from the Division of Waste Management and Radiation regarding the findings of the glass recycling [study](#).

Action: Voted to present the report recommendations to the sponsor of the original bill that initiated the study for review and potential future legislation.

Review of Watershed Councils Act

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff on the statutory requirement to review the Watershed Councils Act. Received a [presentation](#) and [report](#) from the Division of Water Resources regarding local watershed council activities and recommendations.

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food Updates

Heard from the Department of Agriculture and Food regarding a proposed rule change related to kratom.

Received a [presentation](#) from the State Veterinarian regarding the New World Screwworm.

Water Policy Review

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff on the state water policy.

Chairs: Rep. Carl R. Albrecht / Sen. Keven J. Stratton
Staff: Charley Hart (Policy Analyst) / Julie Humberstone (Managing Policy Analyst) / Patricia Owen (Senior Associate General Counsel) / Ryan C. Williams (Associate General Counsel) / Kaelie Mortensen (Administrative Assistant)



Political Subdivisions

Draft Legislation: County Forms of Government

Action: Discussed and approved as a committee bill 2026 General Session draft legislation, "[County Forms of Government Amendments](#)," which would remove restrictions on including full-time county executive or legislative members in a new or amended county government plan.

Opened a committee bill file to address county classifications and the triggers that would result in a change in county classification.

Title 17 Recodification

Received a status update from committee staff on the five bill drafts that relate to the recodification of Title 17, Counties:

- [Title 17 Recodification General Provisions and County Officers](#);
- [Title 17 Recodification County Programs and Related Provisions](#);
- [County Recodification External References](#);
- [County Recodification External References Modifications](#); and
- [Municipal Land Use, Development, and Management Act Recodification](#).

Discussed the index and crosswalk documents prepared to help legislators, stakeholders, and the public understand the restructuring of Title 17, Counties and easily locate the appropriate sections:

- [Index for Title 17 Recodification](#);
- [Index for Chapter 10-9a Recodification](#);
- [Title 17 comparison of old to new sections](#); and
- [Crosswalk for Chapter 10-9a Recodification](#).

Action: Opened a committee bill file to make the substantive policy changes to County Code discussed by stakeholders during the Title 17, Counties, recodification process.

Chairs: Rep. James A. Dunnigan / Sen. Don L. Ipson
Staff: Nathan W. Brady (Policy Analyst) / RuthAnne Oakey-Frost (Senior Associate General Counsel) / Steve Schaefermeyer (Associate General Counsel) / Naomi Garrow (Administrative Assistant)

Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology

Draft Legislation: Drinking Water Utilities

Amendments

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2026 General Session draft legislation, "[Drinking Water Utilities Amendments](#)," which would address security at drinking water facilities.

Energy Education and Workforce Development Programs

Received a [presentation](#) from the Office of Energy Development on the progress of implementation of energy education and workforce programs within the office.

Intermountain Power Agency

Received an update from the Department of Natural Resources on the management and operational plan of the Intermountain Power Agency.

Received an update from the Division of Air Quality on the air permitting process for the Intermountain Power Agency.

Invictus Sovereign

Received a [presentation](#) from Invictus Sovereign on the progress of Valley Forge, an energy-centered community in Millard County.

Utah Aerospace and Defense

Received a [presentation](#) from 47G - Utah Aerospace & Defense on strategic opportunities for the state in the defense and aerospace industries.

Chairs: Rep. Colin W. Jack / Sen. Derrin R. Owens
Staff: Samantha Hermany (Senior Policy Analyst) / Scott Elder (Associate General Counsel) / Samantha Merrell (Administrative Assistant)

Retirement and Independent Entities

September 09, 2025

Administrative and Technical Modifications to Retirement

Discussed potential administrative and technical modifications to retirement provisions for the committee's bill file, "Administrative and Technical Modifications to Retirement."

Utah Dairy Commission

Received a presentation from the Utah Dairy Commission and Dairy West that describes the commission's history, composition, duties, and purpose.

Utah Retirement Systems: AUREUS Project Overview

Received a [presentation](#) on the Utah Retirement Systems' AUREUS project to upgrade record-keeping systems for retirement plans. The project upgrade will serve as a replacement for line of business software for:

- retirement record keeping;
- savings plans record keeping; and

- automation and straight-through processing.

The AUREUS project will serve as a new member and employer portal with increased functionality and enhanced security. Project development addressed components of planning, design, infrastructure, functional delivery, the system is expected to be ready for deployment by March 30, 2026.

Utah Retirement Systems: Financial Status Report

Received a [presentation](#) from Utah Retirement Systems regarding the funding status and preliminary contribution rates for fiscal year 2026-2027.

Utah Retirement Systems: Retirement Application Processing and Backlog

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Retirement Systems (URS) on retirement application processing. Discussed the factors leading up to an application backlog that took place from late 2024 to early 2025. Reviewed:

- temporary challenges that caused delays;
- how URS addressed the backlog; and
- the current status of retirements.

URS noted that typical retirement applications process within 60 days and that the only retirement applications past 60 days involve some form of complication.

Chairs: Rep. Cheryl K. Acton / Sen. Wayne A. Harper
Staff: Adam J. Sweet (Deputy Director) / RuthAnne Oakey-Frost (Senior Associate General Counsel) / Christine R. Gilbert (Deputy General Counsel) / Victoria Firmage (Administrative Assistant Team Lead)

Revenue and Taxation

Draft Legislation: Tax Credit Review Process

Amendments

Action: Approved as a committee bill 2026 General Session draft legislation, "[Tax Credit Review Process Amendments](#)," which would exempt the income tax credit for taxes paid to another state from periodic review by the committee.

Federal Tax Reform Update

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff on tax provisions in Federal legislation bill H.R. 1, "[One Big Beautiful Bill Act](#)," and how those provisions could potentially impact Utah's tax code.

Local Option Sales Taxes

Heard from the State Tax Commission and the Utah League of Cities and Towns regarding the reauthorization of local option sales taxes, such as the Botanical, Cultural, Recreational, and Zoological Organizations or Facilities (ZAP tax) and Rural City Hospital taxes.

Overview of Tax Modifications Bill

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff on the proposed contents of the tax modifications bill file.

Truth in Taxation

Heard from the State Tax Commission on issues the commission has discovered regarding the Truth in Taxation process specific to the notice and public hearing requirements of Section [59-2-919](#).

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

Transportation

Data Privacy and Motor Vehicles

Received a [presentation](#) from the Division of Consumer Protection on consumer data privacy relating to information sharing with car manufacturers and other entities. Discussed further study through a committee working group and committee bill file.

Draft Legislation: Motor Vehicle Registration

Services Amendments

Received a presentation from a legislator and stakeholders on 2026 General Session draft legislation, "[Motor Vehicle Registration Services Amendments](#)," which would amend vehicle registration fees to support DMV services in rural counties.

Traffic Safety

Received a [presentation](#) from the Department of Public Safety, including Utah Highway Patrol and the Driver License Division, on recent traffic safety trends and concerns.

Vehicle Registration

Received a [presentation](#) from the State Tax Commission regarding vintage vehicle and trailer registration, and received public comment on registration for [vintage vehicles](#).

Action: *Opened a committee bill file to simplify vintage vehicle registration.*

Chairs: Rep. Kay J. Christofferson / Sen. Wayne A. Harper
Staff: Rachel Brooks (Policy Analyst) / Riley Williams (Associate General Counsel) / Kurt P. Gasser (Managing Associate General Counsel) / Gabi Prior (Administrative Assistant)



Committee Bill Files Opened by Legislative Committees For the 2026 General Session, as of September 18, 2025

Total number of committee bill files opened: 71

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

Business and Labor

- Behavior Analyst Licensing Amendments
- Consumer Protection Modifications
- Corporations Amendments
- Health Care Providers Immunity Amendments
- Office of Professional Licensure Review Amendments
- Property Rights Ombudsman Act Amendments
- Trust Business Amendments
- Utah Construction Trades Licensing Act Amendments
- Advertised Fee Amendments
- Business Entities Recodification
- Kratom Revisions

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 11

Economic Development and Workforce Services

- Bears Ears Visitor Center Advisory Committee Amendments
- Child Care Advisory Committee Amendments
- Housing Amendments

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 3

Education

- Online Education Service Provider Funding and Oversight
- Local Education Agency Financial Reporting
- High School Activities Appeals Panel
- *Education Technology Vendor Amendments**

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 4

Government Operations

- Credit Card Processing Fees Amendments
- Voting Equipment Prohibitions Amendments
- Candidate Petition Amendments
- Signature Gathering and Verification Amendments
- Signature Verification Revisions
- *Community Rehabilitation Program Amendments**
- *Signature Gathering and Verification Modifications**

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 7

Health and Human Services

- Health Plan Provider Directory Amendments
- Medicaid Expansion Amendments
- Healthcare Provider Noncompete Amendments
- Health and Human Services Sunset Amendments
- Correctional Health Services Amendments

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 5

Judiciary

- Amendments to Interdisciplinary Parental Representation Pilot Program
- Appeal Amendments
- Joint Resolution Amending Rules of Evidence Concerning Crimes or Other Acts
- Joint Resolution Regarding Constitutional Brackets
- Juvenile Justice Changes
- Limitations on the Use of Polygraphs
- Adoption Amendments
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Sunset Amendments
- Public Land Access Amendments
- Tribal Endorsement of Utah Driver License Amendments

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 10

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

- Digital Evidence Amendments
- Human Trafficking Amendments
- Law Enforcement Use of Artificial Intelligence Amendments
- Criminal Offense Modifications
- Criminal Use of Cryptocurrency Amendments
- Prison and Jail Standards Amendments
- Statutorily Required Reports and Presentations Amendments
- *Criminal Penalty Amendments**

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 8

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment

- Soil Health Program Amendments
- State Weed Committee Amendments
- Lead Acid Battery Disposal Sunset Amendments
- Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Technical Changes
- *Used Oil Management Act Amendments**

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 5

Political Subdivisions

- Title 17 Recodification
- County Forms of Government Amendments
- Title 10 Technical Amendments
- Municipal Fiscal Processes Technical Amendments
- *County Government Amendments**
- *County Classification Modifications**

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 6

Retirement and Independent Entities

- Administrative and Technical Modifications to Retirement

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 1

Revenue and Taxation

- Tax Modifications
- Sales and Use Tax Exemptions Amendments
- Tax Credit Review Process Amendments

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 3

Rules Review and General Oversight Committee

- *Signature Gathering Amendments**
- Joint Resolution Amending Rules Relating to the Practice of Law

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 2

Transportation

- Transportation Commission Amendments
- Boating Safety Education
- Motor Vehicle Division Amendments
- *Road Jurisdiction Amendments**
- *Vintage Vehicle Amendments**
- *Motor Vehicle Data Privacy Amendments**

Total Number of Committee Bill Files Opened: 6