



# MINUTES

## HOUSE PUBLIC UTILITIES AND ENERGY STANDING COMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 | 4:00 p.m. | 110 Senate Building

### Members Present:

Rep. Colin W. Jack, Chair  
Rep. Thomas W. Peterson, Vice Chair  
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht  
Rep. Scott H. Chew  
Rep. Rosalba Dominguez  
Rep. Carol S. Moss  
Rep. Nicholeen P. Peck  
Rep. Troy Shelley

Rep. Rex P. Shipp  
Rep. Casey Snider  
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

### Members Absent:

Rep. Walt Brooks

### Staff Present:

Samantha Merrell, Policy Analyst  
Jennifer Kunzler, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

Chair Jack called the meeting to order at 4:19 PM.

### 1. 2nd Sub. S.B. 21 Geothermal Amendments(*McKell, M.*)

Sen. Mike McKell presented the bill.

Wade Garrett, Vice President, Utah Farm Bureau, spoke in favor of the bill.

Willis LaFevre, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Peterson moved to replace SB0021S02 with SB0021S03. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 4.

#### Yeas - 8

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. R. Dominguez  
Rep. C. Jack  
Rep. N. Peck  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. C. Watkins

#### Nays - 0

#### Absent - 4

Rep. W. Brooks  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. T. Shelley  
Rep. C. Snider

**MOTION:** Rep. Peterson moved to amend SB0021S03 with Amendment #1. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 4.

#### Amendment 1

1. Line 66:

66 Section . is amended to read:

67 Purpose of chapter ~~-- Scope of chapter.~~

(1) ~~[It is declared to be in the public interest]~~ The purpose of this chapter is to:

69 (1)(a) foster, encourage, and promote the discovery, development, production, [utilization]use,  
70 and disposal of geothermal resources [in the State of Utah]for the purpose of electricity  
71 production in such manner as will prevent waste, protect correlative rights, and  
72 safeguard the natural environment and the public welfare; [to]and

73 (2)(b) authorize, encourage, and provide for the development and operation of geothermal



74 resource properties for the purpose of electricity production in such manner that the  
75 maximum ultimate economic recovery of geothermal resources may be obtained  
76 through, among other things, agreements for cooperative development, production,  
77 injection, and pressure maintenance operations.

(2) This chapter does not apply to the removal or extraction of a mineral from a geothermal resource.

Yeas - 8

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. R. Dominguez  
Rep. C. Jack  
Rep. N. Peck  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Rep. W. Brooks  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. T. Shelley  
Rep. C. Snider

**MOTION:** Rep. Peterson moved to pass SB0021S03 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 9

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. R. Dominguez  
Rep. C. Jack  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. N. Peck  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. W. Brooks  
Rep. T. Shelley  
Rep. C. Snider

Vice Chair Peterson assumed the chair.

**2. H.B. 591 Nuisance Amendments(Jack, C.)**

[HB0591 Public Nuisance Law Information](#)

Rep. Jack with assistance from Derek Brown, Utah Attorney General, and Roger Gibboni, US Chamber Institute for Legal Reform, presented the bill.

Jimmy McKee, resident, spoke to the bill.

Jennie Hoppie, Attorney, Utah Association of Justice, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Tammy Pearson, Beaver County Commissioner, spoke in favor of the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Shipp moved to pass HB0591 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 1 - 2.

Yeas - 9

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. C. Jack  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. N. Peck  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. T. Shelley  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 1

Rep. R. Dominguez

Absent - 2

Rep. W. Brooks  
Rep. C. Snider

**3. H.B. 549 Energy Efficiency Rebate Amendments(Shallenberger, D.)**

Rep. David Shallenberger presented the bill.

Chair Jack assumed the chair.

Clay Monroe, Director of Customer Solutions, Rocky Mountain Power, spoke to the bill.

Kevin Emerson, Director, Utah Clean Energy, spoke to the bill.

Glen Anderson, President, Glenanergy, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Jake DeMann, resident, spoke to the bill.

Michele Beck, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Dominguez moved to replace HB0549 with HB0549S01. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 9

Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. R. Dominguez  
Rep. C. Jack  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. N. Peck  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. T. Shelley  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0Absent - 3

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. W. Brooks  
Rep. C. Snider

**MOTION:** Rep. Dominguez moved to amend HB0549S01 with Amendment #1. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 3.

**Amendment 1**

1. Line 6 through 12:

6  
7 This Bill:  
8 →defines terms;  
9 →{~~requires a large-scale public utility to operate an energy rebate program;~~  
10 →requires a large-scale public utility to annually report to the Office of Energy  
11 Development regarding the large-scale public utility's energy rebate program; and  
12 →modifies the Office of Energy Development's reporting duties to include a review of

2. Line 34 through 40:

34 (ii)provides retail natural gas service to more than 200,000 retail customers in the  
 35 state.  
 36 (c)"Office" means the Office of Energy Development created in Section 79-6-401.  
 37 (2)On or before September 1, {2027}2026, and annually thereafter on or before September 1, a  
 38 large-scale public utility that operates an energy rebate program shall submit a report to  
 39 the office describing the energy rebate program operated by the large-scale public utility  
 40 during the previous calendar year.

3 . Line 75 through 81:

75 Subsection (3) to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee by  
 76 no later than the 2026 November interim meeting of the Public Utilities, Energy, and  
 77 Technology Interim Committee.  
 78 (4)(a)On or before November 1, {2027}2026, and annually thereafter on or before November  
 79 1, the office shall:  
 80 (i)review the reports submitted by large-scale public utilities under Section 54-7-13.7;  
 81 (ii)consult with each large-scale public utility that submitted a report under Section

Yeas - 9

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. S. Chew  
 Rep. R. Dominguez  
 Rep. C. Jack  
 Rep. C. Moss  
 Rep. N. Peck  
 Rep. T. Peterson  
 Rep. T. Shelley  
 Rep. R. Shipp  
 Rep. C. Watkins

Rep. C. Albrecht  
 Rep. W. Brooks  
 Rep. C. Snider

**MOTION:** Rep. Shelley moved to pass HB0549S01 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 9

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. S. Chew  
 Rep. R. Dominguez  
 Rep. C. Jack  
 Rep. C. Moss  
 Rep. N. Peck  
 Rep. T. Peterson  
 Rep. T. Shelley  
 Rep. R. Shipp  
 Rep. C. Watkins

Rep. C. Albrecht  
 Rep. W. Brooks  
 Rep. C. Snider

**MOTION:** Rep. Shelley moved to place HB0549S01 on the Consent Calendar.

After committee discussion, the motion to put HB0549S01 on the consent calendar was withdrawn.

#### **4. 1st Sub. H.B. 582 Asbestos Amendments(*Peterson, T.*)**

Rep. Peterson presented the bill.

Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality (DEQ), spoke in favor of the bill.

Taz Biesinger, Lobbyist, Utah Home Builders Association, spoke in favor of the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Watkins moved to pass HB0582S01 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 8

Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. R. Dominguez  
Rep. C. Jack  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. N. Peck  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. W. Brooks  
Rep. T. Shelley  
Rep. C. Snider

**MOTION:** Rep. Watkins moved to place HB0582S01 on the Consent Calendar. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 8

Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. R. Dominguez  
Rep. C. Jack  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. N. Peck  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. W. Brooks  
Rep. T. Shelley  
Rep. C. Snider

**5. 1st Sub. S.B. 223 Sales and Use Tax Exemptions Modifications(Vickers, E.)**

Sen. Evan Vickers with assistance from Steve Young, Attorney, Holland and Hart, presented the bill.

Billy Hesterman, President, Utah Taxpayers Association, spoke in favor of the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Moss moved to pass SB0223S01 out favorably.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Rep. Peterson moved to amend SB0223S01 with Amendment #1.

Amendment 1

1. Line 463 through 469:

463 (55) (a) leases of seven or more years or purchases made on or after July 1, 2004, but on  
464 or before June 30, [2027]2037, of tangible personal property that:  
465 (i) is leased or purchased for or by a facility that:  
466 (A) is {an alternative—energy}a baseload dispatchable electricity production facility;  
467 (B) is located in the state; and  
468 (C) (I) becomes operational on or after July 1, 2004; or  
469 (II) has its generation capacity increased by one or more megawatts on or after

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Chair Jack moved to hold SB0223S01.

Rep. Peterson withdrew the motion to amend SB0223S01

Chair Jack's motion to hold SB0223S01 passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 10

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. R. Dominguez  
Rep. C. Jack  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. N. Peck  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. T. Shelley  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Rep. W. Brooks  
Rep. C. Snider

## **6. H.B. 479 Election Code Modifications(*Burton, J.*)**

[HB0479 Election Code Modifications Information](#)

[HB0479 Election Code Modifications Handout](#)

[HB0479 and Existing Code Handout](#)

Rep. Jefferson Burton presented the bill.

Aaron Davidson, Utah County Clerk, spoke in favor of the bill.

Elita Thurber, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Teena Horlacher, State Central Committee member, Republicans for Utah, spoke in favor of the bill.

Jimmy McKee, resident, spoke in opposition of the bill.

Kristin Richey, Eagle Forum, spoke in favor of the bill.

Lenise Peterman, Mayor, Helper City, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Jan Eyring, Precinct Chair, Highland City, spoke in favor of the bill.

John Boyd, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Jen Brown, President, Utah Citizens for the Constitution, spoke in favor of the bill.

Lee Perry, Box Elder County Commissioner, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Wendy Hart, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Russ Rampton, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

April Tingey spoke in opposition to the bill.

Helen Moser spoke in opposition to the bill.

Mary Urban spoke in opposition to the bill.

Norma Wills, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Snider moved to replace HB0479 with HB0479S02. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 2 - 1.

Yeas - 9

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. C. Jack  
Rep. N. Peck  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. T. Shelley  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. C. Snider  
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 2

Rep. R. Dominguez  
Rep. C. Moss

Absent - 1

Rep. W. Brooks

**MOTION:** Rep. Snider moved to pass HB0479S02 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 3 - 1.

Yeas - 8

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. C. Jack  
Rep. N. Peck  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. T. Shelley  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. C. Snider

Nays - 3

Rep. R. Dominguez  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. C. Watkins

Absent - 1

Rep. W. Brooks

**MOTION:** Rep. Peterson moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 11

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. S. Chew  
Rep. R. Dominguez  
Rep. C. Jack  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. N. Peck  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. T. Shelley  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. C. Snider  
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0Absent - 1

Rep. W. Brooks

Chair Jack adjourned the meeting at 7:06 PM.

NOTE: 01st Substitute H.B. 0428 was not discussed in the meeting.