



DRAFT MINUTES

SENATE JUDICIARY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 | 2:00 p.m. | 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Todd Weiler, Chair
Sen. Heidi Balderree
Sen. Brady Brammer
Sen. Kirk A. Cullimore
Sen. Lincoln Fillmore
Sen. Michael K. McKell
Sen. Calvin R. Musselman

Sen. Stephanie Pitcher

Members Absent:

Sen. Luz Escamilla

Staff Present:

Taylor Calabrese, Policy Analyst
An Bradshaw, Committee Secretary

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

Chair Fillmore called the meeting to order at 2:18 p.m.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2026 meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. B. Brammer
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. C. Musselman

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Sen. K. Cullimore
Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. S. Pitcher
Sen. T. Weiler

1. H.J.R. 26 Joint Resolution Amending Rules of Evidence to Address Machine-Generated Evidence(*Ballard, M.G.*)

Rep. Melissa Ballard presented the bill with the assistance of Carl Hollan, Executive Director, Statewide Association of Prosecutors and Public Attorneys (SWAP).

Michael Drechsel, Assistant State Court Administrator, spoke to the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to pass HJR026 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. B. Brammer
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. C. Musselman

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Sen. K. Cullimore
Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. S. Pitcher
Sen. T. Weiler

2. H.B. 116 Criminal Fines Amendments(*Wilcox, R.*)

Rep. Ryan Wilcox presented the bill.

Felix Espinoza, Utah for Rational Sex Offense Laws, spoke in opposition to the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Brammer moved to pass HB0116 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 4.



Yeas - 5

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. B. Brammer
Sen. K. Cullimore
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. C. Musselman

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. S. Pitcher
Sen. T. Weiler

3. 1st Sub. H.B. 295 Overdose Amendments(*Moss, C.*)

[HB 295 Summary](#)

Rep. Carol Moss presented the bill, and provided a handout.

Carl Hollan spoke in support of the bill.

Mark Moffat, Utah Defense Attorney Association, spoke in support of the bill.

Adam Peterson, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Evan Done, Advocacy and Public Policy Director, USARA, spoke in support of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to pass HB0295S01 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. B. Brammer
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. C. Musselman

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Sen. K. Cullimore
Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. S. Pitcher
Sen. T. Weiler

Chair Fillmore recognized Rep. Moss for her work in the Legislature, and wished her a happy retirement.

4. H.B. 341 Animal Fighting Penalties(*Okerlund, C.*)

Rep. Clinton Okerlund turned the time over to Steve Hiatt, Humane World for Animals, to explain the bill.

Terry Camp, Vice President of Public Policy, Utah Farm Bureau Federation, spoke in support of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to pass HB0341 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. B. Brammer
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. C. Musselman

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Sen. K. Cullimore
Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. S. Pitcher
Sen. T. Weiler

5. 1st Sub. H.B. 370 Sex Offender Oversight Amendments(*Lisonbee, K.*)

Rep. Karianne Lisonbee presented the bill with the assistance of Devon Kurtz, Policy Director, Cicero Institute.

Felix Espinoza spoke in opposition to the bill.

Justin Elwood, resident, spoke in support of the bill.

Kyle Arcurio, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Sen. Musselman assumed the chair.

Arik Jeppsen, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Adam Peterson spoke in opposition to the bill.

Joffrey Mehr, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Heather Richey, resident, spoke in support of the bill.

Chair Weiler assumed the chair.

MOTION: Sen. Brammer moved to amend HB0370S01 with Amendment #1. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 5.

Amendment 1

1 . Line 348 through 359:

348 ~~[(b)](ii)~~ release from confinement[:];
349 ~~(b)~~comply with Subsection (10); and
350 ~~(c)~~comply with the requirements described in Sections 17-72-301 and 53-29-308.
351 (5) (a) Except as provided in Subsection ~~[(4)(b)]~~~~[(4)(a)(ii)]~~ ~~(5)(b)~~, if an offender is sent on an
352 assignment outside a secure facility, including being assigned for firefighting or
353 disaster control, the official who has physical custody of the offender shall, within a
354 reasonable time after the day of the offender's removal from the secure facility, notify
355 the local law enforcement agencies where the offender is assigned.
356 (b) Subsection ~~[(4)(a)]~~~~[(4)(a)(i)]~~ ~~(5)(a)~~ does not apply to an offender temporarily released from a
357 secure facility setting who is under the supervision of a correctional facility official.
358 (6) The division shall[-]:
359 ~~(a)~~ register an offender in the custody of the division with the department, as required

2 . Line 519 through 526:

519 Section . is amended to read:
520 Failing to register or providing false or
521 incomplete information – Failing to comply with monitoring program – Penalties.
522 (1) An offender who knowingly fails to register under this chapter[-or], knowingly provides false or
523 incomplete information, or knowingly fails to comply with the sex offender monitoring program
524 described in Section 53-29-406, is guilty of:
525 (a) a third degree felony and shall be sentenced to serve a term of incarceration of not
526 less than 30 days and also at least one year of probation if:

3 . Line 543 through 564:

543 Local law enforcement agency responsibilities for
544 sex offender registrant monitoring and arrest.
545 ~~(1)~~As used in this section:
546 ~~{(a)"County of the first class" means a county that is classified by population as a county }~~
547 ~~{of the first class under Section 17-60-104.}~~
548 ~~{(b)}(a)"Law enforcement interlocal entity" means an interlocal entity under Title 11,~~
549 ~~Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act, that provides law enforcement services.~~
550 ~~{(c)}(b)"Law enforcement special district" means a district that provides law enforcement~~
551 ~~services under:~~
552 ~~(i)Title 17B, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Special Districts; or~~



553 (ii) Title 17D, Chapter 1, Special Service District Act.
 554 ~~{(d)}~~~~(c)~~ "Monitoring program" means the same as the term "program" is defined in Section
 555 53-29-406.
 556 ~~{(e)}~~~~(d)~~ "Municipal law enforcement agency" means a law enforcement agency that is
 557 operated by:
 558 (i) a municipality;
 559 (ii) a law enforcement interlocal entity; or
 560 (iii) a law enforcement special district.
 561 ~~{(f)}~~~~(e)~~ "Municipality" means the same as that term is defined in Section 10-1-104.
 562 (2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), a sheriff shall accept and begin monitoring
 563 program oversight responsibility for a sex offender who is on the monitoring program if
 564 the sheriff receives notice from:

4. Line 568 through 576:

568 the sex offender's change in jurisdiction as described in Subsection (7).
 569 (3)(a) A municipal law enforcement agency shall accept and begin monitoring program
 570 oversight responsibility as described in Subsection (3)(b) if the municipal law
 571 enforcement agency:
 572 ~~{(i) is located in a county of the first class; or}~~
 573 ~~{(ii)}~~ has accepted responsibility for the monitoring program for sex offenders in the
 574 municipal law enforcement agency's jurisdiction under a written agreement with
 575 the sheriff of the county in which the municipal law enforcement agency is
 576 located.

5. Line 710 through 716:

710 (4) A sex offender is not required to pay the cost described in Subsection (3)(c) if the sex
 711 offender demonstrates to the department that the sex offender does not have the ability
 712 to pay.
 713 (5) A sex offender required to be monitored under this section who **knowingly** fails to comply with the
 714 program is guilty of a violation of Section 53-29-305.
 715 (6)(a) The procedure described in Subsection (3)(g) shall require the department, upon
 716 learning of a sex offender described in Subsection (3)(g), to notify, as soon as

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
 Sen. B. Brammer
 Sen. C. Musselman
 Sen. T. Weiler

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Sen. K. Cullimore
 Sen. L. Escamilla
 Sen. L. Fillmore
 Sen. M. McKell
 Sen. S. Pitcher

MOTION:

Sen. Brammer moved to pass HB0370S01 out favorably as amended. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
 Sen. B. Brammer
 Sen. C. Musselman
 Sen. T. Weiler

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Sen. K. Cullimore
 Sen. L. Escamilla
 Sen. L. Fillmore
 Sen. M. McKell
 Sen. S. Pitcher

6. 5th Sub. H.B. 372 Child Welfare Changes (Lisonbee, K.)

Rep. Lisonbee presented the bill.



Erin Jemison, Director of Public Policy, Utah Domestic Violence Coalition, spoke in support of the bill.

Heather Richey spoke in support of the bill.

Lisa Lokken, court-appointed attorney, spoke in support of the bill.

Seth Stewart, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Maryann Christensen, Executive Director, Utah Legislative Watch, spoke in support of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Brammer moved to pass HB0372S05 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. B. Brammer
Sen. C. Musselman
Sen. T. Weiler

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Sen. K. Cullimore
Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. S. Pitcher

7. 1st Sub. H.B. 495 Capital Felony Case Amendments(*Pierucci, C.*)

[HB495 and HJR28 Analysis](#)

Rep. Candice Pierucci presented the bill with the assistance of William Hains, Deputy Division Director, Criminal Appeals, Office of the Attorney General.

Lindsey Layer, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Federal Public Defender District of Utah (FPDDU), spoke in opposition to the bill.

Megan Barnes, Assistant Federal Public Defender, FPDDU, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Eric Zuckerman, Assistant Federal Public Defender, FPDDU, spoke in opposition to the bill

Maryann Christensen spoke in support of the bill.

Carl Hollan spoke in support of the bill.

Mark Moffat spoke in opposition to the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to replace HB0495S01 with HB0495S02. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 6

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. B. Brammer
Sen. K. Cullimore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Musselman
Sen. T. Weiler

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. S. Pitcher

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to pass HB0495S02 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 3.



Yeas - 6

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. B. Brammer
Sen. K. Cullimore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Musselman
Sen. T. Weiler

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. S. Pitcher

8. 1st Sub. H.J.R. 28 Joint Resolution Amending Court Rules Related to Capital Felony Cases(*Pierucci, C.*)

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to pass HJR028S01 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 6

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. B. Brammer
Sen. K. Cullimore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Musselman
Sen. T. Weiler

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. S. Pitcher

9. 2nd Sub. H.B. 536 Criminal Conduct on Public Lands Amendments(*Barlow, S.*)

Rep. Stewart Barlow presented the bill. Wyatt Bubak, Deputy Chief, Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement, was available to answer questions.

Steve Burton, Utah Defense Attorney Association, spoke to the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Brammer moved to amend HB0536S02 with Amendment #1. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 5.

Amendment 1

1. Line 148 through 154:

148 (B)"Archaeological feature" includes a petroglyph, a pictograph, a habitation
149 cave or rock shelter, and other marks or carvings on rock or elsewhere that are
150 of archaeological interest.
151 (ii)"Natural feature" means a unique rock formation or feature, geological formation or
152 feature, or another naturally occurring formation or feature, such as a hoodoo,
153 cave, stalactite, or stalagmite.
154 (iii)"Public lands" means state or federally owned property that is held substantially

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. B. Brammer
Sen. C. Musselman
Sen. T. Weiler

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Sen. K. Cullimore
Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. S. Pitcher

MOTION: Sen. Brammer moved to pass HB0536S02 out favorably as amended. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 5.



Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. B. Brammer
Sen. C. Musselman
Sen. T. Weiler

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Sen. K. Cullimore
Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. S. Pitcher

Sen. Brammer noted this is Rep. Barlow's last bill presentation, and wished him well as he retires from the Legislature.

10. 1st Sub. H.B. 555 Changes to Family Law Actions(Miller, T.)

[HB 555 Bill Analysis](#)

Rep. Tracy Miller presented the bill with the assistance of Catherine Dutton, resident. A handout was provided.

MOTION: Sen. Brammer moved to amend HB0555S01 with Amendment #1. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 4.

Amendment 1

1. Line 51 through 57:

51 alimony, or division of property in a domestic case if the court determines that the party
52 substantially prevailed upon the claim or defense.
53 ~~[(3)](4)~~ The court, in the court's discretion, may award no fees or limited fees against a party
54 under ~~{this section}~~ **Subsection (3)** if the court ~~[finds the party is indigent or enters in the record the~~
55 ~~reason for not awarding fees.]~~ enters a specific finding that:
56 (a) the party is indigent; or
57 (b) the party did not bring the action, petition, or motion to harass, cause unreasonable

Yeas - 5

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. B. Brammer
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. C. Musselman
Sen. T. Weiler

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Sen. K. Cullimore
Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. S. Pitcher

Maria Sherry, resident, spoke support of the bill.

Candice Smith, resident, spoke in support of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Brammer moved to pass HB0555S01 out favorably as amended. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 5

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. B. Brammer
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. C. Musselman
Sen. T. Weiler

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Sen. K. Cullimore
Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. S. Pitcher

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 5.



Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. B. Brammer
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. T. Weiler

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Sen. K. Cullimore
Sen. L. Escamilla
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Musselman
Sen. S. Pitcher

Chair Weiler adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.