



2026 Judiciary Interim Committee

Amended and Approved Study Item List | May 20, 2026

2026 Judiciary Interim Committee Study Items

Study Item	Description
1. Attorney Opinion Letters in Real Estate Escrow	Examine issues related to HB503 “Real Estate Modifications” (2026), which would have allowed title insurance producers to handle real estate escrows using an attorney opinion letter instead of a traditional title insurance policy in certain transactions.
2. Child Welfare Case Timelines	Study the efficiency of child welfare cases moving through the court system, focusing on time spent at each stage and the causes of delay. This item relates to HB576 “Child Welfare Timeline Compliance Amendments” (2026), which sought to address court compliance with child welfare timelines.
3. Criminal Fines	Review criminal fines, fees, and restitution in Utah’s criminal justice system. Examine whether the criminal surcharge should be changed to a flat fee.
4. Domestic Relations Commissioners	Study the appropriate scope of domestic relations commissioner authority in family court proceedings. Concerns have been raised that some proceedings involve complex financial or equitable determinations beyond the intended scope of the commissioner role, and that delays in obtaining judicial review can generate substantial attorney fees. Explore options to clarify commissioner authority, establish thresholds for mandatory judicial assignment, and set standards for timely de novo review.
5. General Provisions for the Utah Code	Study the benefits of adding a general provisions title to the Utah Code. OLRGC has been working on a proposal to add a title that would include provisions applicable to the entire Utah Code, including definitions, drafting and interpretation rules, and severability and savings clauses.
6. Justice Court Closures	Study the impact on district courts of absorbing caseloads from closed municipal justice courts. Examine whether expanding the role of district court commissioners would help manage the anticipated increase in cases.
7. Juvenile Detention	Study issues related to HB465 “Juvenile Court Amendments” (2026), including juvenile detention facility capacity. Explore the policy proposed in HB465 to allow a juvenile court to suspend detention orders as an incentive for compliance with specified conditions, such as drug treatment.
8. Pretrial Release and Failure to Appear Rates	Study issues related to HB593 “Bail Amendments” (2026). Specifically, examine implementation requirements for pretrial services programs to comply with the bill’s updated arraignment procedures for repeat offenders, including the elimination of own recognizance release. Review failure to appear (FTA) rates in Utah courts across case types and judicial districts, trends over time, and how Utah compares to other states.



9. Statute of Limitations	Related to SB213 “Utah Payment of Wages Act Statute of Limitations” (2026), study the appropriate limitations period for wage claim lawsuits. Examine how statutes of limitations are organized throughout the Utah Code and whether those provisions should be clarified or consolidated.
10. Victims’ Services Funding and Impact Statements	As federal funding for victims’ services declines, the committee could explore sustainable funding alternatives. Separately, examine whether the priority of victim impact statements in the justice system should be more clearly defined.
11. Judicial Nominating Procedures	Review Utah’s judicial selection system and nominating procedures. Utah uses a merit selection model in which judicial nominating commissions recommend candidates to the governor for appointment, subject to Senate confirmation.
12. Speedy Trials	Study whether Utah should establish a statutory right to a speedy trial in criminal cases. According to NCSL , Utah is among a minority of states that lacks such a statutory right. This study relates to HB213 “Criminal Proceedings Amendments” (2026) and would examine other states’ approaches and identify options for accelerating criminal proceedings.
