1

REVISIONS TO THE UTAH CREDIT UNION ACT

2	ACT
3	2005 GENERAL SESSION
4	STATE OF UTAH
5	Sponsor: LaVar Christensen
6	
7	LONG TITLE
8	General Description:
9	This bill modifies the Utah Credit Union Act.
10	Highlighted Provisions:
11	This bill:
12	 provides legislative findings and requirements regarding the member owned and
13	controlled, cooperative and nonprofit nature of credit unions;
14	 modifies definition provisions;
15	 deletes the ability of a credit union to not have its shares and deposits insured by the
16	National Credit Union Administration including deleting related references; and
17	 makes technical changes.
18	Monies Appropriated in this Bill:
19	None
20	Other Special Clauses:
21	None
22	Utah Code Sections Affected:
23	AMENDS:
24	7-9-2, as enacted by Chapter 16, Laws of Utah 1981
25	7-9-3 (Contingently Superseded 05/02/05), as last amended by Chapter 327, Laws of
26	Utah 2003
27	7-9-6, as last amended by Chapter 327, Laws of Utah 2003

28	7-9-20 (Contingently Superseded 05/02/05), as last amended by Chapter 327, Laws of
29	Utah 2003
30	7-9-39 (Contingently Superseded 05/02/05), as last amended by Chapter 327, Laws of
31	Utah 2003
32	7-9-45, as last amended by Chapter 329, Laws of Utah 1999
33	7-9-48, as last amended by Chapter 329, Laws of Utah 1999
34	ENACTS:
35	7-9-2.5 , Utah Code Annotated 1953
36	
37	Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
38	Section 1. Section 7-9-2 is amended to read:
39	7-9-2. Legislative findings Description of credit unions.
40	(1) The Legislature finds that:
41	(a) credit unions:
42	(i) are established participants and contributors to a strong and healthy financial
43	institution industry in Utah; and
44	(ii) provide valuable financial services and products to the citizens of the state;
45	(b) because taxes on income are constitutionally earmarked in this state for the funding
46	of public education, the Legislature grants exemptions from paying taxes on income only when
47	countervailing public policy considerations warrant an exemption; and
48	(c) credit unions are exempt from paying taxes on income because of the unique nature
49	of credit unions as member owned and controlled nonprofit cooperatives that fulfill the
50	purposes described in Subsections (2) and (3).
51	(2) A credit union is a member owned and controlled cooperative[,] and nonprofit
52	association, incorporated under this chapter to:
53	(a) encourage thrift among its members[, to];
54	(b) create sources of credit at fair and reasonable rates of interest[;]; and [to]
55	(c) provide an opportunity for its members to use and control their resources on a
56	democratic basis in order to improve their economic and social condition.
57	(3) Essential to the fulfillment of a credit union's fundamental mission is a meaningful
58	affinity and bond among members, manifested by:

59	(a) a commonality of routine interaction, which includes residency in a geographic area
60	permitted under Section 7-9-51; or
61	(b) shared and related:
62	(i) work experiences; or
63	(ii) recognized and identifiable interests or purposes.
64	(4) An essential characteristic of a member owned and controlled cooperative and
65	nonprofit association as described in Subsections (2) and (3) is meaningful control by the
66	members over the net income of the credit union after statutorily required reserves are satisfied
67	and allowing for favorable interest rates for member loans and deposits so that the members
68	have a substantive and informed choice whether to:
69	(a) return excess net income to the members as cash dividends; or
70	(b) use net income to fund further capital improvements and expansion of the credit
71	union's operations as may be permitted by law.
72	Section 2. Section 7-9-2.5 is enacted to read:
73	<u>7-9-2.5.</u> Democratic governance.
74	(1) (a) To comply with the requirements of Subsection 7-9-2(4), a credit union shall
75	provide an opportunity for its members to vote on how the net income of the credit union is
76	used after statutorily required reserves are satisfied.
77	(b) The vote required by this Subsection (1) shall occur as frequently as determined by
78	the board of directors of the credit union, but no less than once each calendar year.
79	(2) A credit union shall make a list of all of its members with contact information
80	available to any member of the credit union upon written request of the member:
81	(a) subject to the requirements of Subsection 16-6a-1602(3); and
82	(b) so that the members of the credit union may communicate with each other
83	regarding credit union matters and the democratic governance of the credit union to which the
84	members belong.
85	Section 3. Section 7-9-3 (Contingently Superseded 05/02/05) is amended to read:
86	7-9-3 (Contingently Superseded 05/02/05). Definitions.
87	As used in this chapter:
88	(1) (a) "Association" means a group of persons that:
89	(i) constitute the members of a formal association organized for:

90	(A) an identifiable interest that is consistent with this chapter;
91	(B) an identifiable purpose that is consistent with this chapter;
92	(C) a specific profession; or
93	(D) a specific occupation; or
94	(ii) are employed by a common employer.
95	(b) "Association" does not include a group of persons that is:
96	(i) identified or created primarily on the basis of a relationship between any person
97	and:
98	(A) a consumer;
99	(B) a customer; or
100	(C) a client; or
101	(ii) created primarily for the purpose of expanding the membership in a credit union.
102	(2) "Capital and surplus" means:
103	(a) shares;
104	(b) deposits;
105	(c) reserves; and
106	(d) undivided earnings.
107	(3) "Corporate credit union" means any credit union organized pursuant to any state or
108	federal act for the purpose of serving other credit unions.
109	(4) "Credit union service organization" means an entity:
110	(a) that provides any of the services listed in Subsection 7-9-59(2); and
111	(b) in which a credit union organized under this chapter holds an ownership interest.
112	(5) "Deposits" means that portion of the capital paid into the credit union by members
113	on which a specified rate of interest will be paid.
114	(6) "Field of membership" means persons designated as eligible for credit union
115	membership in accordance with:
116	(a) Section 7-9-51 or 7-9-53; and
117	(b) the bylaws of the credit union.
118	(7) "Immediate family" means parents, spouse, surviving spouse, children, and siblings
119	of the member.
120	(8) (a) "Member-business loan" means any loan, line of credit, or letter of credit, the

121	proceeds of which will be used for:
122	(i) a commercial purpose;
123	(ii) other business investment property or venture purpose; or
124	(iii) an agricultural purpose.
125	(b) "Member-business loan" does not include an extension of credit:
126	(i) that is fully secured by a lien on a one- to four- family dwelling that is the primary
127	residence of a member;
128	(ii) that is fully secured by:
129	(A) shares or deposits in the credit union making the extension of credit; or
130	(B) deposits in other financial institutions;
131	(iii) the repayment of which is fully insured or fully guaranteed by, or where there is an
132	advance commitment to purchase in full by, an agency of:
133	(A) the federal government;
134	(B) a state; or
135	(C) a political subdivision of a state; or
136	(iv) that is granted by a corporate credit union to another credit union.
137	(9) "Nonexempt credit union" means a credit union that is a nonexempt credit union
138	under Section 7-9-55.
139	(10) "Share drafts," "deposit drafts," and "transaction accounts" mean accounts from
140	which owners are permitted to make withdrawals by negotiable or transferable instruments or
141	other orders for the purpose of making transfers to other persons or to the owner.
142	(11) "Shares" means that portion of the capital paid into the credit union by members
143	on which dividends may be paid.
144	Section 4. Section 7-9-6 is amended to read:
145	7-9-6. Formation of corporation to conduct credit union Approval of
146	commissioner.
147	(1) (a) Ten or more incorporators belonging to the same group of 200 persons or more
148	having a field of membership may, with the approval of the commissioner, form a corporation
149	to conduct a credit union under:
150	(i) this chapter;
151	(ii) Title 16. Chapter 10a, Utah Revised Business Corporation Act: and

151 (ii) Title 16, Chapter 10a, Utah Revised Business Corporation Act; and

152	(iii) Chapter 1, General Provisions.
153	(b) This chapter takes precedence over conflicting provisions of other state law
154	governing:
155	(i) the formation of the corporation; and
156	(ii) the duties and obligations of:
157	(A) the corporation;
158	(B) the corporation's officers; and
159	(C) the corporation's shareholders or members.
160	(2) The commissioner may grant the approval referenced in Subsection (1) if the
161	commissioner finds that:
162	(a) the proposed field of membership is favorable to the success of the credit union;
163	(b) the standing of the proposed membership will give assurance that its affairs will be
164	administered in accordance with this chapter;
165	(c) the proposed credit union has a reasonable promise of financial viability; and
166	(d) formation of the credit union would not result in a substantial adverse financial
167	impact on an existing credit union having the same or substantially the same field of
168	membership.
169	(3) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b) and in addition to the requirements of
170	Subsections (1) and (2), Section 7-1-704 governs the formation of a credit union.
171	(b) Notwithstanding Subsection $(3)(a)[:(i)]$, if the proposed credit union has a field of
172	membership that does not base eligibility on residence in a county, the persons seeking
173	formation of the proposed credit union are not required to provide the notice required under
174	Subsection 7-1-704(3)[; and].
175	[(ii) a credit union may not be required to obtain federal insurance if the credit union
176	complies with Subsection 7-9-45(2).
177	Section 5. Section 7-9-20 (Contingently Superseded 05/02/05) is amended to read:
178	7-9-20 (Contingently Superseded 05/02/05). Board of directors Powers and
179	duties Loan limitations.
180	(1) At annual meetings the members shall elect from their number a board of directors
181	consisting of an odd number of not loss than five members
	consisting of an odd number of not less than five members.

183	(a) mail;
184	(b) ballot box; or
185	(c) both mail and ballot box.
186	(3) Voting may not be by proxy.
187	(4) Members of the board of directors shall hold office for the terms prescribed in the
188	bylaws.
189	(5) The board of directors shall meet at least monthly.
190	(6) The board of directors shall have the general management of the affairs, funds, and
191	records of the credit union. In particular, the board of directors shall:
192	(a) act upon applications for membership;
193	(b) act upon expulsion of members;
194	(c) fix the amount of surety bond required of each officer or employee having custody
195	of funds;
196	(d) determine the rate of interest or dividend allowed on shares and deposits;
197	(e) determine the terms and conditions of credit granted to members;
198	(f) lend money, borrow money, and pledge security for any borrowing;
199	(g) fill vacancies in the board of directors or in the credit committee, if applicable, or in
200	the supervisory committee until the election and qualification of officers to fill those vacancies;
201	(h) appoint up to two alternate directors as provided in the bylaws;
202	(i) fix the amount of the entrance fee;
203	(j) declare dividends and their amount;
204	(k) make recommendations to meetings of the members relative to amendments to the
205	articles of incorporation, and transact any other business of the credit union; and
206	(l) fix the maximum amount of credit, secured and unsecured, that may be extended to
207	any one member, up to the limitations described in Subsections (7) and (8).
208	(7) (a) The credit that may be outstanding or available by a credit union at any one time
209	is subject to the limitations described in this Subsection (7):
210	(i) except as provided in Subsection (8); and
211	(ii) except that the board of directors may:
212	(A) set a lower limit than the limit in Subsection (7)(b)(i) or (7)(b)(ii)(B); or
213	(B) require that a person described in Subsection (7)(b)(ii)(A) be a member of the

H.B. 277

214 credit union for more than six months before the date a member-business loan is extended. 215 (b) (i) A credit union may not extend credit that is not a member-business loan to a 216 member if as a result of that extension of credit the total credit that is not a member-business 217 loan that the credit union has issued to that member exceeds at any one time: 218 (A) for a credit union with less than \$2,000,000 in capital and surplus, the greater of: 219 (I) \$1,000; or 220 (II) 15% of capital and surplus up to a total of \$25,000; or 221 (B) for a credit union with \$2,000,000 or more in capital and surplus, the greater of: 222 (I) \$25,000; 223 (II) 1% of capital and surplus; or 224 (III) 25% of the regular reserve. 225 (ii) Beginning March 24, 1999, a credit union may not extend a member-business loan 226 to a person: 227 (A) (I) if the person is a business entity, unless at least one individual having a 228 controlling interest in that business entity has been a member of the credit union for at least six 229 months prior to the date of the extension of the member-business loan; or 230 (II) if the person is an individual, unless the individual is a member of the credit union 231 for at least six months prior to the date of the extension of the member-business loan; or 232 (B) if as a result of the extension of the member-business loan, the total amount 233 outstanding for all member-business loans that the credit union has extended to that person at 234 any one time exceeds the lesser of: 235 (I) 10% of the credit union's capital and surplus; or 236 (II) \$250,000. 237 (c) (i) Beginning March 24, 1999, a credit union may not extend a member-business 238 loan if as a result of that member-business loan the credit union's aggregate member-business 239 loan amount calculated under Subsection (7)(c)(ii) at any one time exceeds 1.25 times the sum 240 of: 241 (A) the actual undivided earnings; and 242 (B) the actual reserves other than the regular reserves. 243 (ii) For purposes of Subsection (7)(c)(i), the aggregate member-business loan amount 244 of a credit union equals:

245	(A) the sum of the total amount financed under all member-business loans outstanding
246	at the credit union; minus
247	(B) the amount of the member-business loans described in Subsection (7)(c)(ii)(A):
248	(I) that is secured by share or deposit savings in the credit union; or
249	(II) for which the repayment is insured or guaranteed by, or there is an advance
250	commitment to purchase by an agency of the federal government, a state, or a political
251	subdivision of the state.
252	(d) (i) A credit union service organization may extend credit to a member of a credit
253	union holding an ownership interest in the credit union service organization only if the credit
254	union in which the person is a member is not prohibited from extending that credit to that
255	member under:
256	(A) this Subsection (7) and Subsection (8); or
257	(B) Section 7-9-58.
258	(ii) For purposes of determining whether under this Subsection (7) and Subsection (8) a
259	credit union may extend credit, the total amount outstanding of credit extended by a credit
260	union service organization to a person shall be treated as if the credit was extended by the
261	credit union in which the person is a member.
262	(iii) If a person seeking an extension of credit from a credit union service organization
263	is a member of more than one credit union holding an ownership interest in the credit union
264	service organization, the person shall specify the credit union to which the extension of credit
265	is attributed under Subsection (7)(d)(ii).
266	(iv) This Subsection (7)(d) effects only an extension of credit:
267	(A) that is extended on or after May 5, 2003; and
268	(B) by:
269	(I) a credit union service organization; or
270	(II) a credit union organized under this chapter.
271	(e) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, a nonexempt credit union may
272	not extend credit that the nonexempt credit union is prohibited from extending under Section
273	7-9-58.
274	(8) (a) A credit union may extend credit that is not a member-business loan in an
275	amount that exceeds the limits described in Subsection (7)(b)(i) only if the excess portion is

276	fully secured by share or deposit savings in the credit union.
277	(b) (i) Except as provided in Subsection (8)(b)(ii), a credit union may extend a
278	member-business loan in an amount that exceeds the limits described in Subsection
279	(7)(b)(ii)(B) only if:
280	(A) that portion that is in excess of the limits described in Subsection (7)(b)(ii)(B) is
281	secured by share or deposit savings in the credit union; or
282	(B) the repayment of that portion that is in excess of the limits described in Subsection
283	(7)(b)(ii)(B) is insured or guaranteed by, or there is an advance commitment to purchase that
284	excess portion by, an agency of:
285	(I) the federal government;
286	(II) a state; or
287	(III) a political subdivision of the state.
288	(ii) Notwithstanding Subsection (8)(b)(i), a credit union may not extend a
289	member-business loan if the total amount financed by the credit union exceeds \$1,000,000.
290	(c) For a member-business loan that is extended through a loan participation
291	arrangement in accordance with Subsection 7-9-5(12):
292	(i) in applying the limitation of Subsection (8)(b), each credit union participating in the
293	member-business loan may extend up to \$1,000,000 of the amount financed; and
294	(ii) the requirement of Subsection (7)(b)(ii)(A) applies to membership in any credit
295	union that participates in the loan participation arrangement for the member-business loan.
296	(9) As provided in this chapter or in the credit union bylaws, the board of directors:
297	(a) within 30 days following the annual meeting of the members, shall appoint a
298	supervisory committee consisting of not less than three members;
299	(b) within 30 days after the annual meeting of the members, shall appoint:
300	(i) a credit committee consisting of not less than three members; or
301	(ii) a credit manager in lieu of a credit committee;
302	(c) shall appoint a president to serve as general manager;
303	(d) shall have an executive committee;
304	(e) may appoint an investment officer;
305	(f) shall elect a secretary;
306	(g) may appoint other officers and committees that it considers necessary;

307	(h) shall establish written credit policies, loan security requirements, loan investment,
308	personnel, and collection policies; and
309	(i) on or before January 31 of each year, shall provide for[: (i)] share insurance for the
310	shares and deposits of the credit union from the National Credit Union Administration or
311	successor federal agency[; or] .
312	[(ii) security expressly pledged for the payment of the shares and deposits in
313	accordance with Section 7-9-45.]
314	(10) A person may not be a member of more than one committee except as otherwise
315	provided in this chapter or in the credit union bylaws.
316	(11) The president and secretary may not be the same person.
317	Section 6. Section 7-9-39 (Contingently Superseded 05/02/05) is amended to read:
318	7-9-39 (Contingently Superseded 05/02/05). Voluntary merger.
319	(1) Any credit union may merge with another credit union under the existing charter of
320	the other credit union when all of the following have occurred:
321	(a) the majority of the directors of each merging credit union votes in favor of the
322	merger plan;
323	(b) the commissioner approves the merger plan;
324	(c) the majority of the members of each merging credit union present at a meeting
325	called for the purpose of considering the merger plan votes to approve the merger plan, but a
326	vote of the membership of the surviving credit union is not required if its board of directors
327	determines that the merger will not have any significant effect on the organization,
328	membership, or financial condition of the credit union; and
329	(d) [(i)] the National Credit Union Administration or its successor federal deposit
330	insurance agency approves the merger plan and commits to insure deposits of the surviving
331	credit union[; or].
332	[(ii) the commissioner approves the surviving credit union to operate without federal
333	deposit insurance in accordance with Section 7-9-45.]
334	(2) Upon merger, the chair of the board and secretary of each credit union shall
335	execute, and file with the department, a certificate of merger setting forth:
336	(a) the time and place of the meeting of the board of directors at which the plan was
337	approved;

02-15-05 5:46 PM

338 (b) the vote by which the directors approved the plan; 339 (c) a copy of the resolution or other action by which the plan was approved; 340 (d) the time and place of the meeting of the members at which the plan was approved; 341 (e) the vote by which the members approved the plan; and 342 (f) the effective date of the merger, which shall be: 343 (i) the date on which the last approval or vote required under Subsection (1) was 344 obtained; or 345 (ii) a later date specified in the merger plan. 346 (3) On the effective date of any merger: 347 (a) all property, property rights, and interests of the merged credit union shall vest in 348 the surviving credit union without deed, endorsement, or other instrument of transfer; and 349 (b) all debts, obligations, and liabilities of the merged credit union are considered to 350 have been assumed by the surviving credit union. 351 (4) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(b), if the surviving credit union is chartered 352 under this chapter, the residents of a county in the field of membership of the merging credit 353 union may not be added to the field of membership of the surviving credit union, except that 354 the surviving credit union: 355 (a) may admit as a member any member of the merging credit union that is not in the 356 field of membership of the surviving credit union if the member of the merging credit union 357 was a member of that credit union at the time of merger; and 358 (b) may service any member-business loan of the merging credit union until the 359 member-business loan is paid in full. 360 (5) (a) This section shall be interpreted, whenever possible, to permit a credit union 361 chartered under this chapter to merge with a credit union chartered under any other law if the 362 preservation of membership interest is concerned. 363 (b) The commissioner may under Subsection (1)(b) approve a merger plan that 364 includes the addition of the residents of a county in the field of membership of the merging 365 credit union to the field of membership of the surviving credit union if the commissioner finds 366 that: 367 (i) the expansion of the field of membership of the surviving credit union is necessary 368 for that credit union's safety and soundness; and

369	(ii) the expanded field of membership of the surviving credit union meets the criteria
370	stated in Subsection 7-9-52(3)(c).
371	(6) If the commissioner approves a merger plan under Subsection (5)(b) under which
372	the surviving credit union's field of membership after the merger will include residents of more
373	than one county, Subsections (6)(a) through (e) apply to the surviving credit union.
374	(a) The domicile-county of the surviving credit union is:
375	(i) if the credit union does not have a field of membership under Subsection
376	7-9-53(2)(c) or (2)(d), the county in which the credit union has located the greatest number of
377	branches as of the date the merger is effective; or
378	(ii) if the credit union has a field of membership under Subsection 7-9-53(2)(c) or
379	(2)(d), the county that is the domicile-county of the surviving credit union under Section
380	7-9-53;
381	(b) Within the surviving credit union's domicile-county, the surviving credit union may
382	establish, relocate, or otherwise change the physical location of the credit union's:
383	(i) main office; or
384	(ii) branch.
385	(c) Within a county other than the domicile-county that is in the field of membership of
386	the surviving credit union after the merger, the surviving credit union may not:
387	(i) establish a main office or branch if the main office or branch was not located in the
388	county as of the date that the merger is effective;
389	(ii) participate in a service center in which it does not participate as of the date that the
390	merger is effective; or
391	(iii) relocate the surviving credit union's main office or a branch located in the county
392	as of the date that the merger is effective unless the commissioner finds that the main office or
393	branch is being relocated within a three-mile radius of the original location of the main office
394	or branch.
395	(d) After the merger, the surviving credit union may admit as a member:
396	(i) a person in the surviving credit union's field of membership after the date that the
397	merger is effective; or
398	(ii) a person belonging to an association that:
399	(A) is added to the field of membership of the credit union; and

400	(B) resides in the domicile-county of the surviving credit union, as defined in Section
401	7-9-53.
402	(e) In addition to any requirement under this Subsection (6), a surviving credit union
403	shall comply with any requirement under this title for the establishment, relocation, or change
404	in the physical location of a main office or branch of a credit union.
405	Section 7. Section 7-9-45 is amended to read:
406	7-9-45. Insurance of shares and deposits.
407	(1) [Except as provided in Subsection (2), a] \underline{A} credit union subject to the jurisdiction
408	of the department shall obtain and maintain insurance on shares and deposits from the National
409	Credit Union Administration or successor federal deposit insurance agency.
410	[(2) Notwithstanding Subsection 7-1-704(7)(a)(v) and Subsection (1), a credit union
411	may not be required to obtain federal insurance on shares and deposits if:]
412	[(a) the commissioner approves the credit union's election not to obtain federal
413	insurance on shares and deposits;]
414	[(b) as security for the shares and deposits, the credit union maintains securities:]
415	[(i) that are issued by or directly and unconditionally guaranteed by:]
416	[(A) the United States; or]
417	[(B) an agency of the United States;]
418	[(ii) that are held in an account with a primary reporting dealer that is:]
419	[(A) recognized by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York; and]
420	[(B) independent of the credit union;]
421	[(iii) that are held in accordance with Title 70A, Chapter 8, Uniform Commercial Code
422	- Investment Securities; and]
423	[(iv) in which the department has an express and exclusive security interest; and]
424	[(c) the aggregate value of the securities described in Subsection (2)(b) is at all times
425	equal to or greater than 1.15 times the aggregate amount of the shares and deposits of the credit
426	union.]
427	[(3)] (2) The commissioner may appoint the administrator of the National Credit Union
428	Administration as liquidating agent of an insured credit union.
429	[(4)] (3) Failure to comply with this section constitutes grounds for supervisory action
430	under Chapter 2 or 19.

431 Section 8. Section **7-9-48** is amended to read:

432 **7-9-48.** Disclosure of share and deposit insurance.

- 433 [(1)] A credit union shall comply with all share and deposit insurance disclosure
- 434 requirements of the National Credit Union Administration or its successor agency.
- 435 [(2) In addition to the disclosure requirements described in Subsection (1), a credit
- 436 union that in accordance with Subsection 7-9-45(2) is not insured by the National Credit Union
- 437 Administration or successor federal deposit insurance agency shall provide, as prescribed by
- 438 rule or order, notice that deposits and shares in the credit union are not insured by a federal
- 439 deposit insurance agency.]

Legislative Review Note as of 2-15-05 12:14 PM

Based on a limited legal review, this legislation has not been determined to have a high probability of being held unconstitutional.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

State Impact

No fiscal impact.

Individual and Business Impact

Credit Unions will sustain additional costs associated with postage and handling in contacting members for voting and with providing membership lists.

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst