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# IMPACT FEES AMENDMENTS

2013 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Daniel McCay**

Senate Sponsor: J. Stuart Adams

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends provisions related to an impact fee.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines terms;
- amends provisions governing certain entities that are required to comply with an impact fee facilities plan;
- amends provisions related to required information in an impact fee facilities plan;
- authorizes a private entity to establish an administrative appeals procedure to consider and decide a challenge to an impact fee;
- amends provisions governing a request for an advisory opinion on an impact fee; and
- makes technical corrections.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**10-9a-305**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapters 47, 92, and 407

H.B. 224

**10-9a-510**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapters 47 and 92
**11-36a-102**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 47
**11-36a-301**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 47
**11-36a-302**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 47
**11-36a-703**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 47
**13-43-205**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapter 172
**17-27a-305**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapters 47, 92, and 407
**17-27a-509**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapters 47 and 92
**17B-1-118**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 47

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **10-9a-305** is amended to read:

**10-9a-305. Other entities required to conform to municipality's land use ordinances -- Exceptions -- School districts and charter schools -- Submission of development plan and schedule.**

(1) (a) Each county, municipality, school district, charter school, local district, special service district, and political subdivision of the state shall conform to any applicable land use ordinance of any municipality when installing, constructing, operating, or otherwise using any area, land, or building situated within that municipality.

(b) In addition to any other remedies provided by law, when a municipality's land use ordinance is violated or about to be violated by another political subdivision, that municipality may institute an injunction, mandamus, abatement, or other appropriate action or proceeding to prevent, enjoin, abate, or remove the improper installation, improvement, or use.

(2) (a) Notwithstanding Subsection (1), a public transit district under Title 17B, Chapter 2a, Part 8, Public Transit District Act, is not required to conform to any applicable land use ordinance of a municipality located within the boundaries of a county of the first class when constructing a:

(i) rail fixed guideway public transit facility that extends across two or more counties; or

(ii) structure that serves a rail fixed guideway public transit facility that extends across two or more counties, including:

(A) platforms;

(B) passenger terminals or stations;

(C) park and ride facilities;

(D) maintenance facilities;

(E) all related utility lines, roadways, and other facilities serving the public transit facility; or

(F) other auxiliary facilities.

(b) The exemption from municipal land use ordinances under this Subsection (2) does not extend to any property not necessary for the construction or operation of a rail fixed guideway public transit facility.

(c) A municipality located within the boundaries of a county of the first class may not, through an agreement under Title 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act, require a public transit district under Title 17B, Chapter 2a, Part 8, Public Transit District Act, to obtain approval from the municipality prior to constructing a:

(i) rail fixed guideway public transit facility that extends across two or more counties; or

(ii) structure that serves a rail fixed guideway public transit facility that extends across two or more counties, including:

(A) platforms;

(B) passenger terminals or stations;

(C) park and ride facilities;

(D) maintenance facilities;

(E) all related utility lines, roadways, and other facilities serving the public transit facility; or

(F) other auxiliary facilities.

(3) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (4), a school district or charter school is subject to a municipality's land use ordinances.

(b) (i) Notwithstanding Subsection (4), a municipality may:

(A) subject a charter school to standards within each zone pertaining to setback, height, bulk and massing regulations, off-site parking, curb cut, traffic circulation, and construction staging; and

(B) impose regulations upon the location of a project that are necessary to avoid unreasonable risks to health or safety, as provided in Subsection (4)(f).

(ii) The standards to which a municipality may subject a charter school under Subsection (3)(b)(i) shall be objective standards only and may not be subjective.

(iii) Except as provided in Subsection (8)(d), the only basis upon which a municipality may deny or withhold approval of a charter school's land use application is the charter school's failure to comply with a standard imposed under Subsection (3)(b)(i).

(iv) Nothing in Subsection (3)(b)(iii) may be construed to relieve a charter school of an obligation to comply with a requirement of an applicable building or safety code to which it is otherwise obligated to comply.

(4) A municipality may not:

(a) impose requirements for landscaping, fencing, aesthetic considerations, construction methods or materials, additional building inspections, municipal building codes, building use for educational purposes, or the placement or use of temporary classroom facilities on school property;

(b) except as otherwise provided in this section, require a school district or charter school to participate in the cost of any roadway or sidewalk, or a study on the impact of a school on a roadway or sidewalk, that is not reasonably necessary for the safety of school children and not located on or contiguous to school property, unless the roadway or sidewalk is required to connect an otherwise isolated school site to an existing roadway;

(c) require a district or charter school to pay fees not authorized by this section;

(d) provide for inspection of school construction or assess a fee or other charges for inspection, unless the school district or charter school is unable to provide for inspection by an inspector, other than the project architect or contractor, who is qualified under criteria established by the state superintendent;

(e) require a school district or charter school to pay any impact fee for an improvement project unless the impact fee is imposed as provided in Title 11, Chapter 36a, Impact Fees Act;

(f) impose regulations upon the location of an educational facility except as necessary to avoid unreasonable risks to health or safety; or

(g) for a land use or a structure owned or operated by a school district or charter school that is not an educational facility but is used in support of providing instruction to pupils,

impose a regulation that:

(i) is not imposed on a similar land use or structure in the zone in which the land use or structure is approved; or

(ii) uses the tax exempt status of the school district or charter school as criteria for prohibiting or regulating the land use or location of the structure.

(5) Subject to Section 53A-20-108, a school district or charter school shall coordinate the siting of a new school with the municipality in which the school is to be located, to:

(a) avoid or mitigate existing and potential traffic hazards, including consideration of the impacts between the new school and future highways; and

(b) maximize school, student, and site safety.

(6) Notwithstanding Subsection (4)(d), a municipality may, at its discretion:

(a) provide a walk-through of school construction at no cost and at a time convenient to the district or charter school; and

(b) provide recommendations based upon the walk-through.

(7) (a) Notwithstanding Subsection (4)(d), a school district or charter school shall use:

(i) a municipal building inspector;

(ii) (A) for a school district, a school district building inspector from that school district; or

(B) for a charter school, a school district building inspector from the school district in which the charter school is located; or

(iii) an independent, certified building inspector who is:

(A) not an employee of the contractor;

(B) approved by:

(I) a municipal building inspector; or

(II) (Aa) for a school district, a school district building inspector from that school district; or

(Bb) for a charter school, a school district building inspector from the school district in which the charter school is located; and

(C) licensed to perform the inspection that the inspector is requested to perform.

(b) The approval under Subsection (7)(a)(iii)(B) may not be unreasonably withheld.

(c) If a school district or charter school uses a school district or independent building

inspector under Subsection (7)(a)(ii) or (iii), the school district or charter school shall submit to the state superintendent of public instruction and municipal building official, on a monthly basis during construction of the school building, a copy of each inspection certificate regarding the school building.

(8) (a) A charter school shall be considered a permitted use in all zoning districts within a municipality.

(b) Each land use application for any approval required for a charter school, including an application for a building permit, shall be processed on a first priority basis.

(c) Parking requirements for a charter school may not exceed the minimum parking requirements for schools or other institutional public uses throughout the municipality.

(d) If a municipality has designated zones for a sexually oriented business, or a business which sells alcohol, a charter school may be prohibited from a location which would otherwise defeat the purpose for the zone unless the charter school provides a waiver.

(e) (i) A school district or a charter school may seek a certificate authorizing permanent occupancy of a school building from:

(A) the state superintendent of public instruction, as provided in Subsection 53A-20-104(3), if the school district or charter school used an independent building inspector for inspection of the school building; or

(B) a municipal official with authority to issue the certificate, if the school district or charter school used a municipal building inspector for inspection of the school building.

(ii) A school district may issue its own certificate authorizing permanent occupancy of a school building if it used its own building inspector for inspection of the school building, subject to the notification requirement of Subsection 53A-20-104(3)(a)(ii).

(iii) A charter school may seek a certificate authorizing permanent occupancy of a school building from a school district official with authority to issue the certificate, if the charter school used a school district building inspector for inspection of the school building.

(iv) A certificate authorizing permanent occupancy issued by the state superintendent of public instruction under Subsection 53A-20-104(3) or a school district official with authority to issue the certificate shall be considered to satisfy any municipal requirement for an inspection or a certificate of occupancy.

(9) (a) A specified public agency intending to develop its land shall submit to the land

use authority a development plan and schedule:

(i) as early as practicable in the development process, but no later than the commencement of construction; and

(ii) with sufficient detail to enable the land use authority to assess:

(A) the specified public agency's compliance with applicable land use ordinances;

(B) the demand for public facilities listed in Subsections 11-36a-102[~~(15)~~] (16)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (g) caused by the development;

(C) the amount of any applicable fee described in Section 10-9a-510;

(D) any credit against an impact fee; and

(E) the potential for waiving an impact fee.

(b) The land use authority shall respond to a specified public agency's submission under Subsection (9)(a) with reasonable promptness in order to allow the specified public agency to consider information the municipality provides under Subsection (9)(a)(ii) in the process of preparing the budget for the development.

(10) Nothing in this section may be construed to:

(a) modify or supersede Section 10-9a-304; or

(b) authorize a municipality to enforce an ordinance in a way, or enact an ordinance, that fails to comply with Title 57, Chapter 21, Utah Fair Housing Act, the federal Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 3601 et seq., the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12102, or any other provision of federal law.

Section 2. Section **10-9a-510** is amended to read:

**10-9a-510. Limit on fees -- Requirement to itemize fees -- Appeal of fee -- Provider of culinary or secondary water.**

(1) A municipality may not impose or collect a fee for reviewing or approving the plans for a commercial or residential building that exceeds the lesser of:

(a) the actual cost of performing the plan review; and

(b) 65% of the amount the municipality charges for a building permit fee for that building.

(2) Subject to Subsection (1), a municipality may impose and collect only a nominal fee for reviewing and approving identical floor plans.

(3) A municipality may not impose or collect a hookup fee that exceeds the reasonable

cost of installing and inspecting the pipe, line, meter, and appurtenance to connect to the municipal water, sewer, storm water, power, or other utility system.

(4) A municipality may not impose or collect:

(a) a land use application fee that exceeds the reasonable cost of processing the application or issuing the permit; or

(b) an inspection, regulation, or review fee that exceeds the reasonable cost of performing the inspection, regulation, or review.

(5) (a) If requested by an applicant who is charged a fee or an owner of residential property upon which a fee is imposed, the municipality shall provide an itemized fee statement that shows the calculation method for each fee.

(b) If an applicant who is charged a fee or an owner of residential property upon which a fee is imposed submits a request for an itemized fee statement no later than 30 days after the day on which the applicant or owner pays the fee, the municipality shall no later than 10 days after the day on which the request is received provide or commit to provide within a specific time:

(i) for each fee, any studies, reports, or methods relied upon by the municipality to create the calculation method described in Subsection (5)(a);

(ii) an accounting of each fee paid;

(iii) how each fee will be distributed; and

(iv) information on filing a fee appeal through the process described in Subsection (5)(c).

(c) A municipality shall establish a fee appeal process subject to an appeal authority described in Part 7, Appeal Authority and Variances, and district court review in accordance with Part 8, District Court Review, to determine whether a fee reflects only the reasonable estimated cost of:

(i) regulation;

(ii) processing an application;

(iii) issuing a permit; or

(iv) delivering the service for which the applicant or owner paid the fee.

(6) A municipality may not impose on or collect from a public agency any fee associated with the public agency's development of its land other than:

(a) subject to Subsection (4), a fee for a development service that the public agency does not itself provide;

(b) subject to Subsection (3), a hookup fee; and

(c) an impact fee for a public facility listed in Subsection 11-36a-102[~~(15)~~] (16)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (g), subject to any applicable credit under Subsection 11-36a-402(2).

(7) A provider of culinary or secondary water that commits to provide a water service required by a land use application process is subject to the following as if it were a municipality:

(a) Subsections (5) and (6);

(b) Section 10-9a-508; and

(c) Section 10-9a-509.5.

Section 3. Section **11-36a-102** is amended to read:

**11-36a-102. Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

(1) (a) "Affected entity" means each county, municipality, local district under Title 17B, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Local Districts, special service district under Title 17D, Chapter 1, Special Service District Act, school district, interlocal cooperation entity established under Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act, and specified public utility:

(i) whose services or facilities are likely to require expansion or significant modification because of the facilities proposed in the proposed impact fee facilities plan; or

(ii) that has filed with the local political subdivision or private entity a copy of the general or long-range plan of the county, municipality, local district, special service district, school district, interlocal cooperation entity, or specified public utility.

(b) "Affected entity" does not include the local political subdivision or private entity that is required under Section 11-36a-501 to provide notice.

(2) "Charter school" includes:

(a) an operating charter school;

(b) an applicant for a charter school whose application has been approved by a chartering entity as provided in Title 53A, Chapter 1a, Part 5, The Utah Charter Schools Act; and

(c) an entity that is working on behalf of a charter school or approved charter applicant

to develop or construct a charter school building.

(3) "Development activity" means any construction or expansion of a building, structure, or use, any change in use of a building or structure, or any changes in the use of land that creates additional demand and need for public facilities.

(4) "Development approval" means:

(a) except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), any written authorization from a local political subdivision that authorizes the commencement of development activity;

(b) development activity, for a public entity that may develop without written authorization from a local political subdivision;

(c) a written authorization from a public water supplier, as defined in Section 73-1-4, or a private water company:

(i) to reserve or provide:

(A) a water right;

(B) a system capacity; or

(C) a distribution facility; or

(ii) to deliver for a development activity:

(A) culinary water; or

(B) irrigation water; or

(d) a written authorization from a sanitary sewer authority, as defined in Section 10-9a-103:

(i) to reserve or provide:

(A) sewer collection capacity; or

(B) treatment capacity; or

(ii) to provide sewer service for a development activity.

(5) "Enactment" means:

(a) a municipal ordinance, for a municipality;

(b) a county ordinance, for a county; and

(c) a governing board resolution, for a local district, special service district, or private entity.

(6) "Encumber" means:

(a) a pledge to retire a debt; or

(b) an allocation to a current purchase order or contract.

(7) "Hookup fee" means a fee for the installation and inspection of any pipe, line, meter, or appurtenance to connect to a gas, water, sewer, storm water, power, or other utility system of a municipality, county, local district, special service district, or private entity.

(8) (a) "Impact fee" means a payment of money imposed upon new development activity as a condition of development approval to mitigate the impact of the new development on public infrastructure.

(b) "Impact fee" does not mean a tax, a special assessment, a building permit fee, a hookup fee, a fee for project improvements, or other reasonable permit or application fee.

(9) "Impact fee analysis" means the written analysis of each impact fee required by Section 11-36a-303.

(10) "Impact fee facilities plan" means the plan required by Section 11-36a-301.

(11) "Level of service" means the defined performance standard or unit of demand for each capital component of a public facility within a service area.

[~~(11)~~] (12) (a) "Local political subdivision" means a county, a municipality, a local district under Title 17B, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Local Districts, or a special service district under Title 17D, Chapter 1, Special Service District Act.

(b) "Local political subdivision" does not mean a school district, whose impact fee activity is governed by Section 53A-20-100.5.

[~~(12)~~] (13) "Private entity" means an entity [~~with~~] in private ownership [~~that provides culinary water that is required to be used as a condition of development.~~] with at least 100 individual shareholders, customers, or connections, that is located in a first, second, third, or fourth class county and provides water to an applicant for development approval who is required to obtain water from the private entity either as a:

(a) specific condition of development approval by a local political subdivision acting in coordination with the private entity; or

(b) functional condition of development approval because the private entity:

(i) has no reasonably equivalent competition in the immediate market; and

(ii) is the only realistic source of water for the applicant's development.

[~~(13)~~] (14) (a) "Project improvements" means site improvements and facilities that are:

(i) planned and designed to provide service for development resulting from a

development activity;

(ii) necessary for the use and convenience of the occupants or users of development resulting from a development activity; and

(iii) not identified or reimbursed as a system improvement.

(b) "Project improvements" does not mean system improvements.

[~~(14)~~] (15) "Proportionate share" means the cost of public facility improvements that are roughly proportionate and reasonably related to the service demands and needs of any development activity.

[~~(15)~~] (16) "Public facilities" means only the following impact fee facilities that have a life expectancy of 10 or more years and are owned or operated by or on behalf of a local political subdivision or private entity:

(a) water rights and water supply, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities;

(b) wastewater collection and treatment facilities;

(c) storm water, drainage, and flood control facilities;

(d) municipal power facilities;

(e) roadway facilities;

(f) parks, recreation facilities, open space, and trails;

(g) public safety facilities; or

(h) environmental mitigation as provided in Section 11-36a-205.

[~~(16)~~] (17) (a) "Public safety facility" means:

(i) a building constructed or leased to house police, fire, or other public safety entities; or

(ii) a fire suppression vehicle costing in excess of $500,000.

(b) "Public safety facility" does not mean a jail, prison, or other place of involuntary incarceration.

[~~(17)~~] (18) (a) "Roadway facilities" means a street or road that has been designated on an officially adopted subdivision plat, roadway plan, or general plan of a political subdivision, together with all necessary appurtenances.

(b) "Roadway facilities" includes associated improvements to a federal or state roadway only when the associated improvements:

(i) are necessitated by the new development; and

(ii) are not funded by the state or federal government.

(c) "Roadway facilities" does not mean federal or state roadways.

[~~(18)~~] (19) (a) "Service area" means a geographic area designated by [~~a local political subdivision~~] an entity that imposes an impact fee on the basis of sound planning or engineering principles in which a public facility, or a defined set of public facilities, provides service within the area.

(b) "Service area" may include the entire local political subdivision or an entire area served by a private entity.

[~~(19)~~] (20) "Specified public agency" means:

(a) the state;

(b) a school district; or

(c) a charter school.

[~~(20)~~] (21) (a) "System improvements" means:

(i) existing public facilities that are:

(A) identified in the impact fee analysis under Section 11-36a-304; and

(B) designed to provide services to service areas within the community at large; and

(ii) future public facilities identified in the impact fee analysis under Section 11-36a-304 that are intended to provide services to service areas within the community at large.

(b) "System improvements" does not mean project improvements.

Section 4. Section **11-36a-301** is amended to read:

**11-36a-301. Impact fee facilities plan.**

(1) Before imposing an impact fee, each local political subdivision or private entity shall, except as provided in Subsection (3), prepare an impact fee facilities plan to determine the public facilities required to serve development resulting from new development activity.

(2) A municipality or county need not prepare a separate impact fee facilities plan if the general plan required by Section 10-9a-401 or 17-27a-401, respectively, contains the elements required by Section 11-36a-302.

(3) (a) A local political subdivision or a private entity with a population, or serving a population, of less than 5,000 as of the last federal census that charges impact fees of less than $250,000 annually need not comply with the impact fee facilities plan requirements of this part, but shall ensure that:

(i) the impact fees that the local political subdivision or private entity imposes are based upon a reasonable plan that otherwise complies with the common law and this chapter; and

(ii) each applicable notice required by this chapter is given.

(b) Subsection (3)(a) does not apply to a private entity.

Section 5. Section **11-36a-302** is amended to read:

**11-36a-302. Impact fee facilities plan requirements -- Limitations -- School district or charter school.**

(1) (a) An impact fee facilities plan shall [~~identify~~]:

[~~(a) demands placed upon existing public facilities by new development activity; and~~]

[~~(b) the proposed means by which the local political subdivision will meet those demands.~~]

(i) identify the existing level of service;

(ii) subject to Subsection (1)(c), establish a proposed level of service;

(iii) identify any excess capacity to accommodate future growth at the proposed level of service;

(iv) identify demands placed upon existing public facilities by new development activity at the proposed level of service; and

(v) identify the means by which the political subdivision or private entity will meet those growth demands.

(b) A proposed level of service may diminish or equal the existing level of service.

(c) A proposed level of service may:

(i) exceed the existing level of service if, independent of the use of impact fees, the political subdivision or private entity provides, implements, and maintains the means to increase the existing level of service for existing demand within six years of the date on which new growth is charged for the proposed level of service; or

(ii) establish a new public facility if, independent of the use of impact fees, the political subdivision or private entity provides, implements, and maintains the means to increase the existing level of service for existing demand within six years of the date on which new growth is charged for the proposed level of service.

(2) In preparing an impact fee facilities plan, each local political subdivision shall

generally consider all revenue sources[~~, including impact fees and anticipated dedication of system improvements,~~] to finance the impacts on system improvements[~~.~~], including:

(a) grants;

(b) bonds;

(c) interfund loans;

(d) impact fees; and

(e) anticipated or accepted dedications of system improvements.

(3) A local political subdivision or private entity may only impose impact fees on development activities when the local political subdivision's or private entity's plan for financing system improvements establishes that impact fees are necessary to [~~achieve an equitable allocation to the costs borne in the past and to be borne in the future, in comparison to the benefits already received and yet to be received~~] maintain a proposed level of service that complies with Subsection (1)(b) or (c).

(4) (a) Subject to Subsection (4)(c), the impact fee facilities plan shall include a public facility for which an impact fee may be charged or required for a school district or charter school if the local political subdivision is aware of the planned location of the school district facility or charter school:

(i) through the planning process; or

(ii) after receiving a written request from a school district or charter school that the public facility be included in the impact fee facilities plan.

(b) If necessary, a local political subdivision or private entity shall amend the impact fee facilities plan to reflect a public facility described in Subsection (4)(a).

(c) (i) In accordance with Subsections 10-9a-305(4) and 17-27a-305(4), a local political subdivision may not require a school district or charter school to participate in the cost of any roadway or sidewalk.

(ii) Notwithstanding Subsection (4)(c)(i), if a school district or charter school agrees to build a roadway or sidewalk, the roadway or sidewalk shall be included in the impact fee facilities plan if the local jurisdiction has an impact fee facilities plan for roads and sidewalks.

Section 6. Section **11-36a-703** is amended to read:

**11-36a-703. Procedures for challenging an impact fee.**

(1) (a) A local political subdivision may establish, by ordinance or resolution, or a

private entity may establish by prior written policy, an administrative appeals procedure to consider and decide a challenge to an impact fee.

(b) If the local political subdivision or private entity establishes an administrative appeals procedure, the local political subdivision shall ensure that the procedure includes a requirement that the local political subdivision make its decision no later than 30 days after the day on which the challenge to the impact fee is filed.

(2) A challenge under Subsection 11-36a-701(3)(a) is initiated by filing:

(a) if the local political subdivision or private entity has established an administrative appeals procedure under Subsection (1), the necessary document, under the administrative appeals procedure, for initiating the administrative appeal;

(b) a request for arbitration as provided in Section 11-36a-705; or

(c) an action in district court.

(3) The sole remedy for a successful challenge under Subsection 11-36a-701(1), which determines that an impact fee process was invalid, or an impact fee is in excess of the fee allowed under this act, is a declaration that, until the local political subdivision or private entity enacts a new impact fee study, from the date of the decision forward, the entity may charge an impact fee only as the court has determined would have been appropriate if it had been properly enacted.

(4) Subsections (2), (3), 11-36a-701(3), and 11-36a-702(1) may not be construed as requiring a person or an entity to exhaust administrative remedies with the local political subdivision before filing an action in district court under Subsections (2), (3), 11-36a-701(3), and 11-36a-702(1).

(5) The judge may award reasonable attorney fees and costs to the prevailing party in an action brought under this section.

(6) This chapter may not be construed as restricting or limiting any rights to challenge impact fees that were paid before the effective date of this chapter.

Section 7. Section **13-43-205** is amended to read:

**13-43-205. Advisory opinion.**

A local government, private entity, or a potentially aggrieved person may, in accordance with Section 13-43-206, request a written advisory opinion:

(1) from a neutral third party to determine compliance with:

(a) Section 10-9a-505.5 and Sections 10-9a-507 through 10-9a-511;

(b) Section 17-27a-505.5 and Sections 17-27a-506 through 17-27a-510; and

(c) Title 11, Chapter 36a, Impact Fees Act; and

(2) (a) at any time before a final decision on a land use application by a local appeal authority under Title 11, Chapter 36a, Impact Fees Act, or Section 10-9a-708 or 17-27a-708; [~~or~~]

(b) at any time before the deadline for filing an appeal with the district court under Title 11, Chapter 36a, Impact Fees Act, or Section 10-9a-801 or 17-27a-801, if no local appeal authority is designated to hear the issue that is the subject of the request for an advisory opinion[~~.~~]; or

(c) at any time prior to the enactment of an impact fee, if the request for an advisory opinion is a request to review and comment on a proposed impact fee facilities plan or a proposed impact fee analysis as defined in Section 11-36a-102.

Section 8. Section **17-27a-305** is amended to read:

**17-27a-305. Other entities required to conform to county's land use ordinances -- Exceptions -- School districts and charter schools -- Submission of development plan and schedule.**

(1) (a) Each county, municipality, school district, charter school, local district, special service district, and political subdivision of the state shall conform to any applicable land use ordinance of any county when installing, constructing, operating, or otherwise using any area, land, or building situated within the unincorporated portion of the county.

(b) In addition to any other remedies provided by law, when a county's land use ordinance is violated or about to be violated by another political subdivision, that county may institute an injunction, mandamus, abatement, or other appropriate action or proceeding to prevent, enjoin, abate, or remove the improper installation, improvement, or use.

(2) (a) Notwithstanding Subsection (1), a public transit district under Title 17B, Chapter 2a, Part 8, Public Transit District Act, is not required to conform to any applicable land use ordinance of a county of the first class when constructing a:

(i) rail fixed guideway public transit facility that extends across two or more counties; or

(ii) structure that serves a rail fixed guideway public transit facility that extends across

two or more counties, including:

(A) platforms;

(B) passenger terminals or stations;

(C) park and ride facilities;

(D) maintenance facilities;

(E) all related utility lines, roadways, and other facilities serving the public transit facility; or

(F) other auxiliary facilities.

(b) The exemption from county land use ordinances under this Subsection (2) does not extend to any property not necessary for the construction or operation of a rail fixed guideway public transit facility.

(c) A county of the first class may not, through an agreement under Title 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act, require a public transit district under Title 17B, Chapter 2a, Part 8, Public Transit District Act, to obtain approval from the county prior to constructing a:

(i) rail fixed guideway public transit facility that extends across two or more counties; or

(ii) structure that serves a rail fixed guideway public transit facility that extends across two or more counties, including:

(A) platforms;

(B) passenger terminals or stations;

(C) park and ride facilities;

(D) maintenance facilities;

(E) all related utility lines, roadways, and other facilities serving the public transit facility; or

(F) other auxiliary facilities.

(3) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (4), a school district or charter school is subject to a county's land use ordinances.

(b) (i) Notwithstanding Subsection (4), a county may:

(A) subject a charter school to standards within each zone pertaining to setback, height, bulk and massing regulations, off-site parking, curb cut, traffic circulation, and construction staging; and

(B) impose regulations upon the location of a project that are necessary to avoid unreasonable risks to health or safety, as provided in Subsection (4)(f).

(ii) The standards to which a county may subject a charter school under Subsection (3)(b)(i) shall be objective standards only and may not be subjective.

(iii) Except as provided in Subsection (8)(d), the only basis upon which a county may deny or withhold approval of a charter school's land use application is the charter school's failure to comply with a standard imposed under Subsection (3)(b)(i).

(iv) Nothing in Subsection (3)(b)(iii) may be construed to relieve a charter school of an obligation to comply with a requirement of an applicable building or safety code to which it is otherwise obligated to comply.

(4) A county may not:

(a) impose requirements for landscaping, fencing, aesthetic considerations, construction methods or materials, additional building inspections, county building codes, building use for educational purposes, or the placement or use of temporary classroom facilities on school property;

(b) except as otherwise provided in this section, require a school district or charter school to participate in the cost of any roadway or sidewalk, or a study on the impact of a school on a roadway or sidewalk, that is not reasonably necessary for the safety of school children and not located on or contiguous to school property, unless the roadway or sidewalk is required to connect an otherwise isolated school site to an existing roadway;

(c) require a district or charter school to pay fees not authorized by this section;

(d) provide for inspection of school construction or assess a fee or other charges for inspection, unless the school district or charter school is unable to provide for inspection by an inspector, other than the project architect or contractor, who is qualified under criteria established by the state superintendent;

(e) require a school district or charter school to pay any impact fee for an improvement project unless the impact fee is imposed as provided in Title 11, Chapter 36a, Impact Fees Act;

(f) impose regulations upon the location of an educational facility except as necessary to avoid unreasonable risks to health or safety; or

(g) for a land use or a structure owned or operated by a school district or charter school that is not an educational facility but is used in support of providing instruction to pupils,

impose a regulation that:

(i) is not imposed on a similar land use or structure in the zone in which the land use or structure is approved; or

(ii) uses the tax exempt status of the school district or charter school as criteria for prohibiting or regulating the land use or location of the structure.

(5) Subject to Section 53A-20-108, a school district or charter school shall coordinate the siting of a new school with the county in which the school is to be located, to:

(a) avoid or mitigate existing and potential traffic hazards, including consideration of the impacts between the new school and future highways; and

(b) maximize school, student, and site safety.

(6) Notwithstanding Subsection (4)(d), a county may, at its discretion:

(a) provide a walk-through of school construction at no cost and at a time convenient to the district or charter school; and

(b) provide recommendations based upon the walk-through.

(7) (a) Notwithstanding Subsection (4)(d), a school district or charter school shall use:

(i) a county building inspector;

(ii) (A) for a school district, a school district building inspector from that school district; or

(B) for a charter school, a school district building inspector from the school district in which the charter school is located; or

(iii) an independent, certified building inspector who is:

(A) not an employee of the contractor;

(B) approved by:

(I) a county building inspector; or

(II) (Aa) for a school district, a school district building inspector from that school district; or

(Bb) for a charter school, a school district building inspector from the school district in which the charter school is located; and

(C) licensed to perform the inspection that the inspector is requested to perform.

(b) The approval under Subsection (7)(a)(iii)(B) may not be unreasonably withheld.

(c) If a school district or charter school uses a school district or independent building

inspector under Subsection (7)(a)(ii) or (iii), the school district or charter school shall submit to the state superintendent of public instruction and county building official, on a monthly basis during construction of the school building, a copy of each inspection certificate regarding the school building.

(8) (a) A charter school shall be considered a permitted use in all zoning districts within a county.

(b) Each land use application for any approval required for a charter school, including an application for a building permit, shall be processed on a first priority basis.

(c) Parking requirements for a charter school may not exceed the minimum parking requirements for schools or other institutional public uses throughout the county.

(d) If a county has designated zones for a sexually oriented business, or a business which sells alcohol, a charter school may be prohibited from a location which would otherwise defeat the purpose for the zone unless the charter school provides a waiver.

(e) (i) A school district or a charter school may seek a certificate authorizing permanent occupancy of a school building from:

(A) the state superintendent of public instruction, as provided in Subsection 53A-20-104(3), if the school district or charter school used an independent building inspector for inspection of the school building; or

(B) a county official with authority to issue the certificate, if the school district or charter school used a county building inspector for inspection of the school building.

(ii) A school district may issue its own certificate authorizing permanent occupancy of a school building if it used its own building inspector for inspection of the school building, subject to the notification requirement of Subsection 53A-20-104(3)(a)(ii).

(iii) A charter school may seek a certificate authorizing permanent occupancy of a school building from a school district official with authority to issue the certificate, if the charter school used a school district building inspector for inspection of the school building.

(iv) A certificate authorizing permanent occupancy issued by the state superintendent of public instruction under Subsection 53A-20-104(3) or a school district official with authority to issue the certificate shall be considered to satisfy any county requirement for an inspection or a certificate of occupancy.

(9) (a) A specified public agency intending to develop its land shall submit to the land

use authority a development plan and schedule:

(i) as early as practicable in the development process, but no later than the commencement of construction; and

(ii) with sufficient detail to enable the land use authority to assess:

(A) the specified public agency's compliance with applicable land use ordinances;

(B) the demand for public facilities listed in Subsections 11-36a-102[~~(15)~~] (16)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (g) caused by the development;

(C) the amount of any applicable fee described in Section 17-27a-509;

(D) any credit against an impact fee; and

(E) the potential for waiving an impact fee.

(b) The land use authority shall respond to a specified public agency's submission under Subsection (9)(a) with reasonable promptness in order to allow the specified public agency to consider information the municipality provides under Subsection (9)(a)(ii) in the process of preparing the budget for the development.

(10) Nothing in this section may be construed to:

(a) modify or supersede Section 17-27a-304; or

(b) authorize a county to enforce an ordinance in a way, or enact an ordinance, that fails to comply with Title 57, Chapter 21, Utah Fair Housing Act, the federal Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 3601 et seq., the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12102, or any other provision of federal law.

Section 9. Section **17-27a-509** is amended to read:

**17-27a-509. Limit on fees -- Requirement to itemize fees -- Appeal of fee -- Provider of culinary or secondary water.**

(1) A county may not impose or collect a fee for reviewing or approving the plans for a commercial or residential building that exceeds the lesser of:

(a) the actual cost of performing the plan review; and

(b) 65% of the amount the county charges for a building permit fee for that building.

(2) Subject to Subsection (1), a county may impose and collect only a nominal fee for reviewing and approving identical floor plans.

(3) A county may not impose or collect a hookup fee that exceeds the reasonable cost of installing and inspecting the pipe, line, meter, or appurtenance to connect to the county

water, sewer, storm water, power, or other utility system.

(4) A county may not impose or collect:

(a) a land use application fee that exceeds the reasonable cost of processing the application or issuing the permit; or

(b) an inspection, regulation, or review fee that exceeds the reasonable cost of performing the inspection, regulation, or review.

(5) (a) If requested by an applicant who is charged a fee or an owner of residential property upon which a fee is imposed, the county shall provide an itemized fee statement that shows the calculation method for each fee.

(b) If an applicant who is charged a fee or an owner of residential property upon which a fee is imposed submits a request for an itemized fee statement no later than 30 days after the day on which the applicant or owner pays the fee, the county shall no later than 10 days after the day on which the request is received provide or commit to provide within a specific time:

(i) for each fee, any studies, reports, or methods relied upon by the county to create the calculation method described in Subsection (5)(a);

(ii) an accounting of each fee paid;

(iii) how each fee will be distributed; and

(iv) information on filing a fee appeal through the process described in Subsection (5)(c).

(c) A county shall establish a fee appeal process subject to an appeal authority described in Part 7, Appeal Authority and Variances, and district court review in accordance with Part 8, District Court Review, to determine whether a fee reflects only the reasonable estimated cost of:

(i) regulation;

(ii) processing an application;

(iii) issuing a permit; or

(iv) delivering the service for which the applicant or owner paid the fee.

(6) A county may not impose on or collect from a public agency any fee associated with the public agency's development of its land other than:

(a) subject to Subsection (4), a fee for a development service that the public agency does not itself provide;

(b) subject to Subsection (3), a hookup fee; and

(c) an impact fee for a public facility listed in Subsection 11-36a-102[~~(15)~~] (16)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (g), subject to any applicable credit under Subsection 11-36a-402(2).

(7) A provider of culinary or secondary water that commits to provide a water service required by a land use application process is subject to the following as if it were a county:

(a) Subsections (5) and (6);

(b) Section 17-27a-507; and

(c) Section 17-27a-509.5.

Section 10. Section **17B-1-118** is amended to read:

**17B-1-118. Local district hookup fee -- Preliminary design or site plan from a specified public agency.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Hookup fee" means a fee for the installation and inspection of any pipe, line, meter, or appurtenance to connect to a local district water, sewer, storm water, power, or other utility system.

(b) "Impact fee" has the same meaning as defined in Section 11-36a-102.

(c) "Specified public agency" means:

(i) the state;

(ii) a school district; or

(iii) a charter school.

(d) "State" includes any department, division, or agency of the state.

(2) A local district may not impose or collect a hookup fee that exceeds the reasonable cost of installing and inspecting the pipe, line, meter, or appurtenance to connect to the local district water, sewer, storm water, power, or other utility system.

(3) (a) A specified public agency intending to develop its land shall submit a development plan and schedule to each local district from which the specified public agency anticipates the development will receive service:

(i) as early as practicable in the development process, but no later than the commencement of construction; and

(ii) with sufficient detail to enable the local district to assess:

(A) the demand for public facilities listed in Subsections 11-36a-102[~~(15)~~] (16)(a), (b),

(c), (d), (e), and (g) caused by the development;

(B) the amount of any hookup fees, or impact fees or substantive equivalent;

(C) any credit against an impact fee; and

(D) the potential for waiving an impact fee.

(b) The local district shall respond to a specified public agency's submission under Subsection (3)(a) with reasonable promptness in order to allow the specified public agency to consider information the local district provides under Subsection (3)(a)(ii) in the process of preparing the budget for the development.

(4) Upon a specified public agency's submission of a development plan and schedule as required in Subsection (3) that complies with the requirements of that subsection, the specified public agency vests in the local district's hookup fees and impact fees in effect on the date of submission.

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**Legislative Review Note**
**as of 2-5-13 12:47 PM**

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**