

2015 Interim Study Items by Interim Committee

BUSINESS AND LABOR

1. Consumer credit laws - to study recent and impending federal regulatory impacts on consumers and financial institutions, and examine implications on state regulations.
2. New motor vehicle sales - to study issues related to the automobile dealer franchising process.
3. Building code revisions and building code revision timeline - to study the impending changes to the various codes that will occur this year, and also examine the statutorily established timeframe that the codes are updated.
4. Bail bonds - to study issues related to bail bonds, including a court's use of bail bonds for a purpose other than ensuring the accused person appears in court at the appointed place, date, and time.
5. Occupational and professional licensing court case - to review the U.S. court case regarding a conflict of interest for those licensing board members who also practice in the profession.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WORKFORCE SERVICES

1. Intergenerational Poverty – review Department of Workforce Services 5 and 10-year plans and build on state-based research to address perpetual poverty among generations of families.
2. Economic Development and Air Quality – follow-up on the Economic Development Task Force recommendations, study the economic impact of air quality issues, and consider market-based approaches to improving air quality.
3. Affordable Housing and Transit – work with transit-oriented development partners to provide due consideration to affordable housing as part of development near transit stations.
4. Economic Development Incentives – study existing incentives to consider effectiveness and potential improvements.
5. Workforce Recruitment and Training – find ways to help existing businesses recruit needed talent and to study the provision of custom training programs for employees and potential employees of the state's changing workforce needs.
6. Committee Housekeeping, Agency Issues, and Code Clean-up – provide normal and customary "investigation and study [of] possibilities for improvement in government services within [the] subject area" including sunset reviews, agency written reports, vetting of specific agency issues, and Utah Code revisions (see IR2-1-201).

EDUCATION

1. State education governance: Study the method for selecting State Board of Education members
2. Educator professional development: Study best practices and determine whether to fund a statewide approach
3. Charter schools: Study governance, oversight, and accountability and determine the role of charter schools in Utah's public education system
4. Student assessment requirements: Study testing mandates, the number of hours spent testing across LEAs, and the extent to which testing limits students' access to technology as a learning tool
5. Early grade reading and math proficiency: Study interventions that may be needed to improve early grade reading and math proficiency

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

1. School Board Elections - In *England v. Hatch*, the constitutionality of Utah's method of selecting state school board members was called into question. In the 2015 General Session, legislators proposed several pieces of legislation to address the issue, but ultimately none of the legislation passed. If the legislature does not act, the courts will have significant discretion to apply a remedy of their choosing.
2. Plurality - Determining a Winner in a Multi-candidate Primary Race - 2014 General Session H.B. 54 created multiple methods by which a candidate can access a primary election ballot. A primary election ballot may therefore list several individuals running for the same office, creating the possibility that a candidate could win the primary election with less than a majority vote. In the 2015 General Session, legislators proposed several pieces of legislation to address the issue, but ultimately none of the legislation passed.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1. Medicaid Preferred Drug List Expansion - to study whether to authorize the Department of Health to include all psychotropic and anti-psychotic drugs on the Medicaid program's preferred drug list. (H.B. 156)
2. Medical Liability - to study whether a health care provider should only be responsible to the spouse, parent, or child of a patient for providing or failing to provide health care. (H.B. 405)
3. Medical Marijuana - to study whether to permit the possession, use, and growing of medical cannabis. (S.B. 259)
4. Care for the Elderly (as time permits)
 - a. Caregiver support - to study how to support individuals and agencies who provide or facilitate care of the elderly.
 - b. Continuous care facilities - to study how to regulate the industry. (H.B. 436).
 - c. Homecare Cottage - to study the homecare cottage concept as a long-term portable care option for senior citizens.

JUDICIARY

1. Family law: to include study of the statute and issues relating to alimony (length, cohabitation, and rehabilitative alimony provisions)
2. Civil Rights: to study the statute and current use of surveillance, subpoenas, and police use of force

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. The impact and implementation of HB 348 on state agencies – this item consist of bringing in the Department of Corrections, the Sentencing Commission, the courts, Adult Probation and Parole, prosecuting and defense attorneys, etc to discuss the implementation of HB 348 and how it impacts their respective areas. Also key would be any unintended consequences/side effects of the legislation realized since its enactment.
2. The use of body cameras by law enforcement officers – this item is related to HB 386 (McCay).
3. Use of force by law enforcement officers in Utah – this issue/study item would focus on:
 - a. historical data regarding use of force and lethal use of force by law enforcement officers and statewide reporting;
 - b. POST training provided to officers regarding the use of force and when it's appropriate;
 - c. Public perception of law enforcement and how that has changed as well as what can be done to improve this in Utah;
 - d. How investigations of use of force by law enforcement is conducted in Utah.

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Natural Resources
 - a. Water – pricing, infrastructure funding mechanisms, Leg. Audit on resources and needs
 - b. Bear Lake – site visit, development, access, quagga, phragmites
 - c. State Parks – expansion, spin off tourism from national parks
2. Agriculture
 - a. Bee Keeping
 - b. State Fairpark (The Legislature intends that the Legislative Management Committee study by its October 2015 interim meeting the long term viability of the State Fairpark in its current location. – S.B. 2, 2015 General Session)
3. Environment
 - a. Air quality - solid fuel burning program, ozone in Uintah Basin, Tier III fuels
 - b. Disposal of depleted uranium in west desert

POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

1. Community Development and Renewal Agencies. (Harper and Handy; SB55)
2. Good Landlord Program - to study issues related to the Good Landlord Program (H.B. 268). (Froerer; HJR26 Item #10) and (Brian King; HJR26 Item #11)

3. Municipal and County Code Enforcement - to study municipal and county enforcement of ordinances regarding abatement of weeds, garbage, refuse, unsightly objects, and other conditions deemed to be a public nuisance. (Thatcher; HJR26 Item #136)
4. Historic Districts - to study parameters and creation guidelines of historic districts. (Webb; HJR26 Item #204)
5. Subdivision Base Parcels - to study delinquent taxes on subdivision base parcels. (Webb; HJR26 Item #24)
6. Assessment Area Bonding - to study assessment area bonding and foreclosure. (Webb; HJR26 Item #3)
7. Subdivision Bonding - to study subdivision bonding and security. (Webb; HJR26 Item #25)
8. Local Government Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs) - to study whether to allow a municipality and county to enter into an agreement to allow the transfer of development rights between their respective jurisdictions (H.B. 287). (Powell and House Political Subdivisions Standing; HJR26 Item #134)
9. Insurance for Lateral Sewer Lines - to study whether local government and sewer districts should provide insurance to homeowners for lateral sewer lines. (Coleman; HJR26 Item #132)

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Interstate Transmission Lines - The Utah code is silent in regard planning and location for interstate transmission lines passing through the state. The issue is that these lines will create corridors, in perpetuity, through select mountain canyons and may or may not connect to the Utah electrical grid.
2. Big Data / Longitudinal Data Management - the development of longitudinal state databases that are relational and can be used planning all types of infrastructure.
3. EPA Rule 111(d) - the EPA will be issuing its final ruling this summer and that may affect the generation of power in Utah, transportation, and pollution control.
4. Telehealth / Telemedicine & Technology - The use of technology to offer cost-effective, direct delivery by providers of healthcare services for both urban and rural environments.

REVENUE AND TAXATION

1. Sales Tax Exemptions - to study and review all sales tax exemptions.
2. Corporate franchise and income taxes - to study single sales factor and the economic benefits of a corporate income tax cut or repeal.
3. Centrally Assessed Taxes - to study issues related to centrally assessed taxes including new growth.
4. Excise taxes – to study excise taxes including the taxation of e-cigarettes.
5. Sales and use tax earmarks – to review earmarks of the sales and use tax and recommendations provided by the Tax Review Commission.
6. Historic Preservation Credit - to study whether to grant a historic preservation tax credit exemption.
7. Tax Code Changes - to study simplifying the tax code, eliminating tax credits, and reducing tax rates.

8. Property Taxes and Water Rates - to study whether to lower property taxes and replace the taxes with water fee increases.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Consolidation of the Sales and Use Tax Earmarks for Transportation (See 1st Sub. H.B. 421 from the 2015 General Session as a possible solution).
2. Implementation and impacts of the Transportation Funding Revisions made in the 2015 General Session including UDOT's intended uses for revenue increases (maintenance funding and bridge rehabilitation projects?).
3. Transportation Commission prioritization process review
4. Coordination between UDOT and school districts on locating new schools (as time permits)
5. Review Large I-15 Construction Projects (as time permits)
6. Interim Study Items 200 and 205 related to vehicle towing (as time permits):
 - a. 200. study issues related to the use of a tow truck motor carrier, vehicle towing, whether to require tow truck drivers to have a criminal background check before performing tow truck services, and towing vehicles from private parking lots (H.B. 266 and 2nd Sub. H.B. 266)(House Transportation Standing)
 - b. 205. study statewide towing policies
7. Interim Study Item 206: study nighttime work zone noise (as time permits)