

# INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS



OCTOBER 2021, VOL. 21, NO. 4



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## Legislative Interim Meetings

Meetings were held October 20, 2021, or as noted

### [Administrative Rules Review Committee](#)

*October 21, 2021*

#### **Reauthorization of Administrative Rules**

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff on the purpose of 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Reauthorization of Administrative Rules](#)," which would reauthorize all state agency administrative rules.

#### **Regulatory Review Project**

Received a [presentation](#) from the Department of Commerce on Utah's Innovation and Startups Regulatory Review Project.

**Chairs:** Rep. Brady Brammer / Sen. Curtis S. Bramble  
**Staff:** Karin M. Rueff (Policy Analyst) / Amy Shewan (Attorney) / Amy Hawkes (Administrative Assistant)

### [Business and Labor](#)

*October 4, 2021*

#### **Worker COVID-19 Vaccine and Testing**

Discussed President Biden's recent announcement that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration would issue an Emergency Temporary Standard to require all employers with 100 or more employees to ensure their workforce is fully vaccinated or require unvaccinated workers to be tested weekly for COVID-19. Presenters included:

- Committee staff;
- Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity;
- Commissioner, Utah Labor Commission;
- Director, Division of Occupational Safety and Health;
- General Counsel, Office of the Attorney General; and
- Solicitor General, Office of the Attorney General.

October 20, 2021

### Earned Wage Access Services Amendments

Discussed 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Earned Wage Access Services Amendments](#)," which would enact provisions related to earned wage access services, including provider registration, provider operational requirements, and provider reporting. The bill would also exempt providers from the provisions of Title 7, Chapter 23, [Check Cashing and Deferred Deposit Lending Registration Act](#).

### Licensing Amendments

Discussed 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Licensing Amendments](#)," which would modify occupational and professional licensing related provisions, including by creating the Office of Occupational and Professional Licensure Review to:

- conduct a sunrise review for each application to establish a new regulated occupation;
- review each regulated occupation at least once every 10 years; and
- review and respond to each legislator inquiry regarding an occupational licensing matter.

Heard a presentation and received a handout from the Department of Commerce and the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing.

### Occupational Licensing

**Action:** Voted to open a committee bill file to modify occupational and professional licensing related provisions and to serve as a cleanup bill for the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing.

### Outdated Reports

**Action:** Voted to open a committee bill file to remove six outdated statutorily required reports from the Utah Code. The outdated reports are:

- Community Enhancement Program (Inland Port Authority);
- Affordable Insulin Study (Insurance Department);
- Workers' Compensation Advisory Council Report Related to Hospital Costs and Workers' Compensation (Labor Commission);
- Division of Antidiscrimination and Labor Report (Labor Commission); and
- Education and Training Standards for State Plumber and Electrician Apprenticeship Programs (Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing).

### Powersport Vehicle Franchise Advisory Board

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Utah Powersport Vehicle Franchise Advisory Board Amendments](#)," which would extend the board's sunset date by 10 years to 2032, and increase the board's total membership from six to seven by increasing the number of board members representing new powersport vehicle franchisees from three to four, one for each congressional district.

### Required Reports

Received the following required reports in accordance with statutory reporting requirements:

- [Affordable Insulin Study](#) and [Cover Letter](#) (Insurance Department);
- [Final Report of Education and Training Standards for State Plumber and Electrician Apprenticeship Programs](#) (Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing);
- [Regulatory Sandbox Annual Report](#) (Department of Commerce); and
- [Report of the Commissioner of the Department of Financial Institutions for the Period July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021](#), and [Executive Summary](#).

Chairs: Rep. Joel Ferry / Sen. Curtis S. Bramble  
Staff: Adam J. Sweet (Policy Analyst) / Amy L. West (Attorney) / Patrick Grecu (Attorney) / Lorna Wells (Committee Secretary)



## [Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel](#)

October 22, 2021

### Child Fatality Review

Received a [report](#) from the Department of Human Services regarding the [deaths](#) of individuals during fiscal year 2021 who had an open case for child welfare services within the past year. Discussed individual cases in the closed portion of the meeting, and related issues and improvements since last year in the open portion of the meeting.

### Guardian Ad Litem

Received a report from the Judiciary's Guardian Ad Litem Oversight Committee on how the committee fulfills its statutory duty to ensure that "the Office of Guardian Ad Litem complies with state and federal law, regulation, policy, and court rules." The Office of Guardian Ad Litem indicated that although caseloads for guardians ad litem are manageable, funding to further reduce caseloads would be helpful.

Chairs: Rep. Christine F. Watkins / Sen. John D. Johnson  
Staff: Mark D. Andrews (Policy Analyst) / Ericka A. Evans (Attorney) / Amy Hawkes (Administrative Assistant)

## [Criminal Code Evaluation Task Force](#)

September 21, 2021

### Criminal Code Recodification

Received presentations from staff on proposed changes to Title 76, Chapter 5, [Part 1](#), [Parts 2 and 4](#), and [Part 3](#).

Considered the proposed revisions in each presentation and discussed the goals and scope of the recodification of the Criminal Code.

*Action: Voted to open a committee bill file to renew the task force for an additional two years.*

Chairs: Rep. Paul Ray / Sen. Karen Mayne  
Staff: John Feinauer (Policy Analyst) / Esther D. Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Jackie Rogers (Attorney) / Royce Gador (Administrative Assistant)

## [Economic Development and Workforce Services](#)

### Alignment of Economic Development Efforts

Received an [update](#) on the activities of the Economic Opportunity Commission from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity.

### Child Care Affordability and Access

Received a [presentation](#) from the Office of Child Care on child care initiatives that could utilize COVID-19 relief funds.

Received a [presentation](#) from a legislator on proposed policy options to include in the committee bill file on child care.

## [Draft Legislation: Commission on Housing Affordability Amendments](#)

Discussed 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Commission on Housing Affordability Amendments](#)."

*Action: Approved as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "Commission on Housing Affordability Amendments."*

## [Film Industry in Utah](#)

Received a [presentation](#) from the Motion Picture Association of Utah on the economic impact of Utah's film incentives.

Chairs: Rep. Stephen G. Handy / Sen. Ronald M. Winterton  
Staff: Karin M. Rueff (Policy Analyst) / Gus Harb (Attorney) / Lorna Wells (Committee Secretary)

## [Education](#)

### Higher Education Performance Funding

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah System of Higher Education updating its performance funding goals as required by 2021 General Session S.B. 193, "[Higher Education Performance Funding](#)."

*Action: Voted to open a committee bill file to adopt the Utah System of Higher Education's performance funding goals.*

### School Curriculum Transparency

Received a [presentation](#) from a legislator outlining a proposal for potential legislation to increase transparency in the creation of public school curriculum.

### Sunset Review: Hospitality and Tourism Management Career and Technical Education Pilot Program

Received a [presentation](#) outlining the following provisions and recommending a two-year extension of each:

- Utah Code Section [53E-3-515](#), which creates the Hospitality and Tourism Management Career and Technical Education Pilot Program; and
- Utah Code Section [53F-9-501](#), which establishes the Hospitality and Tourism Management Education Account.

*Action: Voted to open a committee bill file to extend the sunset date for these provisions by two years.*

### Sunset Review: Juvenile Justice

Received presentations from the [State Board of Education](#) and the [Department of Human Services](#) recommending the extension of Utah Code Section [53G-8-211\(5\)](#), which provides that a school district or school may refer a minor to a court or a law enforcement officer or agency for an alleged class C misdemeanor committed on school property, or for allegedly being a habitual truant, under certain circumstances.

*Action: Voted to open a committee bill file to extend the sunset date for Utah Code Section 53G-8-211(5) by five years.*



## Sunset Review: State Instructional Review

### Commission START HERE

Utah Code Section [53E-4-402](#) creates the State Instructional Materials Commission. Without legislative action, this section will be repealed on July 1, 2022.

Received a [presentation](#) from the State Board of Education about the commission and a recommendation to extend the sunset.

**Action:** Voted to open a committee bill file to extend the sunset date for these provisions by five years.

### Draft Legislation: Utah K-12 Reading Clinic

Reviewed 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Utah K-12 Reading Clinic](#)," which would codify the name of the K-12 Reading Clinic at the University of Utah.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Utah K-12 Reading Clinic](#)."

**Chairs:** Rep. V. Lowry Snow / Sen. John D. Johnson  
**Staff:** Alex R. Janak (Policy Analyst) / Micah Ann Wixom (Policy Analyst) / Amy Shewan (Attorney) / Michael E. Curtis (Attorney) / Royce Gador (Administrative Assistant)

## Government Operations

### Department of Government Operations Merger

Received an [update](#) from the Department of Government Operations regarding the implementation of 2021 General Session 2nd Substitute S.B. 181, "[Department of Government Operations](#)," which resulted in the merging of the Department of Administrative Services, the Department of Technology Services, and the Department of Human Resource Management.

### Division of Technology Services Update

Received a [presentation](#) from the Division of Technology Services regarding its organizational structure, priorities, and challenges.

### Draft Legislation: Department of Government Operations

Reviewed 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Department of Government Operations](#)," which would amend provisions relating to the department.

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Department of Government Operations](#)."

### Draft Legislation: Election Modifications

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Election Modifications](#)," which would modify or repeal code provisions to reflect current practice in election administration.

### Draft Legislation: Election Revisions

**Action:** Voted to amend and approve as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Election Revisions](#)," which would:

- change the dates of a special election in an odd-numbered year to coincide with the dates of municipal elections;
- modify requirements relating to the publishing and posting of sample ballots;
- modify the crime of destroying election documents or supplies to include altering documents;
- provide for a voter's party affiliation to be changed to unaffiliated if the voter is affiliated with a party that is no longer a registered political party; and
- modify the deadline for determining whether a municipality will conduct an election by ranked choice voting to coincide with the deadline for publishing a notice of election.

### Draft Legislation: Elections Schedule Amendments

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill draft legislation, "[Elections Schedule Amendments](#)," which would amend scheduling provisions of the election code.

### Draft Legislation: Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission Act Amendments

Discussed 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission Amendments](#)," which would provide that the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission would determine whether a judge meets minimum performance standards, rather than making a recommendation regarding retaining a judge.

### Draft Legislation: Legislative Process Committee Sunset Extension

**Action:** Approved as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation "[Legislative Process Committee Sunset Extension](#)," which would extend the sunset of the committee.



## Draft Legislation: Local Election Amendments

Discussed 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Local Election Amendments](#)," which would amend provisions relating to cancelling a local election or an uncontested race in a local election.

*Action: Voted to amend and approve as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "Local Election Amendments."*

## Draft Legislation: Utah Protection of Public Employees Act Amendments

Received a summary from the Office of the Attorney General of 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Utah Protection of Public Employees Act Amendments](#)," which would specify the parties' burdens of proof in a civil action where a violation of the Utah Protection of Public Employees Act is alleged.

*Action: Approved as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "Utah Protection of Public Employees Act Amendments."*

## Draft Legislation: "Voting History Amendments"

Discussed 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Voting History Amendments](#)," which would require an election officer to, when reporting voting history for an election, anonymously include certain information for a voter whose voter registration is classified as private.

*Action: Approved as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "Voting History Amendments."*

## State Employee Amendments

Held a discussion regarding the sponsor's intent with 2022 General Session draft legislation, "State Employee Amendments," which would:

- shorten the timeline for processing and reviewing a grievance filed by a state employee;
- require that state employees be paid based on performance;
- transition, through attrition or incentives, any supervising employees who are currently career-service to at-will; and
- require supervisors of state employees to receive annual management training.

Chairs: Rep. A. Cory Maloy / Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher  
Staff: Lisa Sorensen (Policy Analyst) / Alan Houston (Attorney) / Thomas R. Vaughn (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

## Health and Human Services

### Acupuncturist Liability

Considered 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Acupuncturist Liability Amendments](#)," which would add licensed acupuncturists to those health care professionals who have limited immunity under certain circumstances for providing volunteer services, and also would add licensed acupuncturist to the definition of a health care practitioner under the Retired Volunteer Health Care Practitioner Act.

*Action: Approved as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation "Acupuncturist Liability Amendments."*

### Body Art Facilities

Considered 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Sanitation Amendments](#)," which would require the Department of Health to create minimum sanitation rules for facilities where an individual practices or teaches body piercing, branding, permanent cosmetics, scarification, or tattooing.

### COVID-19: Monoclonal Antibodies

Received a [report](#) from the Department of Health on the allocation and use of monoclonal antibody therapy to treat COVID-19. The department reported on steps being taken to address the scarcity of healthcare personnel needed to administer the therapy. The department reported that the state is not experiencing a shortage of available treatment doses.

### Healthcare Worker Protections

Considered 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Health Care Worker Protection Amendments](#)," which would expand the definitions of certain crimes against a healthcare provider or emergency medical service worker to include an employee or contractor of a healthcare facility.

### Sunset Review: Anesthesia, Sedation, and Unprofessional Conduct

Discussed the sunset of statute that, among other things, defines responsibilities of the Department of Health to create and maintain a database of deaths and adverse events from the administration of sedation or anesthesia in outpatient settings and nonemergency departments.

Received recommendations from the [Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing](#) and the [Department of Health](#) that the sunset date be extended for an additional four years.

*Action: Voted to allow the provision to sunset.*

### Sunset Review: Controlled Substances

Discussed the sunset of statutory restrictions related to the prescription of a Schedule II or Schedule III controlled substance that is an opiate.

Received a [recommendation](#) from the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing that the statute be reauthorized until July 1, 2032.



**Action:** Voted to open a committee bill file to extend the sunset date for restrictions related to the prescription of a Schedule II or Schedule III controlled substance that is an opiate by 10 years.

## Sunset Review: Educational Qualifications for Licensure and Reporting

Discussed the sunset of statute allowing for an alternative path to licensure for clinical mental health counselors and requiring that the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing report how many individuals were licensed under the alternative path.

Received a [recommendation](#) from the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing that the statute be reauthorized until July 1, 2032, and to make changes to the number of required hours of postgraduate supervised training.

**Action:** Voted to open a committee bill file to extend the sunset date by 10 years for an alternative path to licensure for clinical mental health counselors and the requirement that the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing report how many individuals were licensed under the alternative path, and to change the number of required hours of postgraduate supervised training from 4,000 to 3,000 hours.

## Sunset Review: Insurance Coverage for Opioids - Policies - Reports

Discussed the sunset of statute requiring that a health insurer submit a report to the Insurance Department indicating whether the health insurer has adopted an Opioid Prescribing Policy.

Received a [recommendation](#) from the Insurance Department that the requirement be allowed to sunset.

**Action:** Voted to allow the provision to sunset.

## Sunset Review: Microenterprise Home Kitchen Permit Limitations

Discussed the sunset of statute limiting the amount of microenterprise home kitchen permits that may be issued by local health departments.

Received a [recommendation](#) from the Department of Health that the statute be reauthorized until July 1, 2024.

## Sunset Review: Utah Substance Abuse and Mental Health Advisory Council

Discussed the sunset of statute that creates and defines responsibilities of the Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Council.

Received a [recommendation](#) from the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health and the Utah Substance Abuse and Mental Health Advisory Council that the statute be reauthorized for an additional 10 years.

**Action:** Voted to open a committee bill file to extend the sunset date for the Utah Substance Abuse and Mental Health Advisory Council by 10 years.

Chairs: Rep. Merrill F. Nelson / Sen. Michael S. Kennedy  
Staff: Mark D. Andrews (Policy Analyst) / Seth Anderson (Policy Analyst) / Christopher Williams (Attorney) / Daniel M. Cheung (Attorney) / Ericka A. Evans (Attorney) / Amy Hawkes (Administrative Assistant)

## Judiciary

### Election Integrity

Heard a [presentation](#) from two legislators on election integrity and a presentation from the [Office of the Lieutenant Governor](#) and Weber County on how Utah elections are currently safeguarded.

### Judges on Ballots

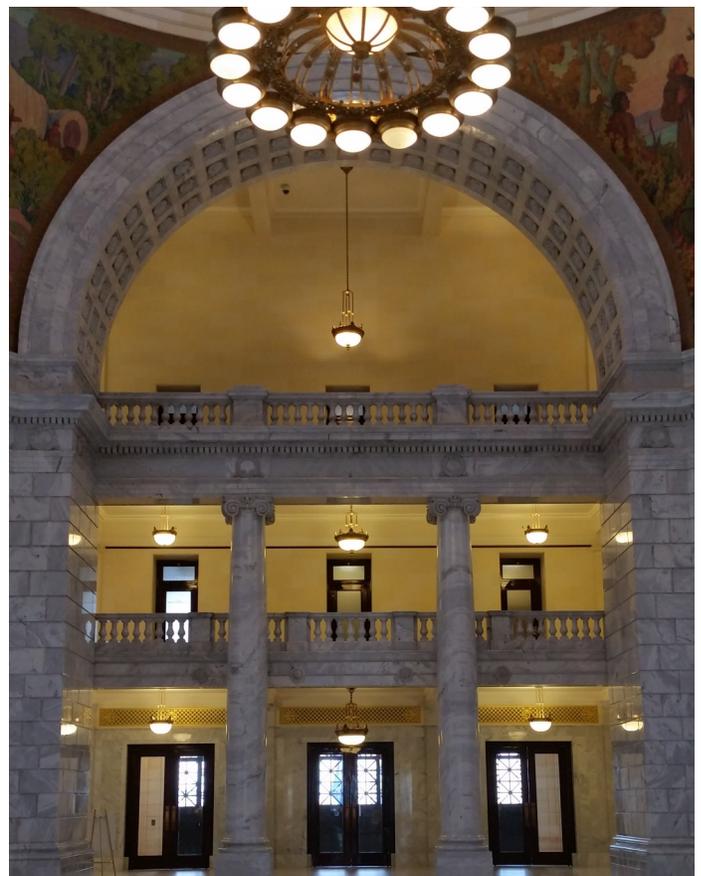
Heard a [presentation](#) from the Weber County Clerk and the Administrative Office of the Courts regarding justice court judges in smaller jurisdictions who cover more than one city and appear multiple times on ballots.

**Action:** Voted to open a committee bill file to address the issue.

### Sex Offender Registry

Heard an update from the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Corrections on practical and procedural improvements to the sex offender registry resulting from the implementation of recently passed legislation.

Chairs: Rep. Karianne Lisonbee / Sen. Todd D. Weiler  
Staff: Kristina King (Policy Analyst) / Christopher Williams (Attorney) / Jacqueline Carlton (Attorney) / Amy Hawkes (Administrative Assistant)



## Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

### **DUI Sentencing**

Received a follow-up presentation on possible changes to DUI sentencing that were discussed at the June 16, 2021, committee meeting.

Received comments from the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office on the need to make charges related to vehicle injuries and deaths more uniform.

***Action:** Approved as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Driving Offenses Amendments](#)," which would adjust offenses and penalties for injuries or death caused by operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any measurable amount of a controlled substance.*

### **Intimate Image Distribution Amendments**

Discussed possible changes to the offense of aggravated unlawful distribution of a counterfeit intimate image.

Received comments from the Voices for Utah Children and the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office about limiting those eligible to be charged with the offense to those 18 years old and older.

***Action:** Approved as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation "[Intimate Image Distribution Amendments](#)," which restricts the offense of aggravated unlawful distribution of a counterfeit intimate image to individuals 18 years old and older.*

## **Law Enforcement and Mental Health**

Received a presentation from the Previdence Corporation on law enforcement agencies in Utah and Massachusetts that have been facilitated by its mental health screening program.

Received a [presentation](#) from Utah State University providing an update on the implementation of the Resilient Mind for Law Enforcement Program, which provides law enforcement professionals with training intended to increase resilience during and after stressful or traumatic events.

Received comments from a legislator about the need to expand the number of mental health workers in law enforcement agencies.

***Action:** Voted to open a committee bill file to address first responder mental health.*

### **Peace Officer Use of Force**

Received comments from a legislator about options for improving community policing training and practices in the state, as well as the need for statutory changes to the use of force statute in code.

### **Sex Offender Registry**

Studied the possibility of altering area restrictions for those on the Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry by allowing the registrants to enter restricted areas if accompanied by another adult.

**Chairs:** Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox / Sen. Keith Grover  
**Staff:** John Feinauer (Policy Analyst) / Esther D. Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Jackie Rogers (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)



## Legislative Redistricting

### **Redistricting**

Held public hearings around the state to receive recommendations on how the Legislature should redraw Senate, House, State School Board, and Congressional district boundaries to account for differences in population growth across the state since 2010. Held hearings in [Cedar City](#), [St. George](#), [Richfield](#), [Moab](#), [Price](#), [Vernal](#), [Park City](#), [Clearfield](#), and [Salt Lake City](#). Using tools provided by the committee, citizens have been able to [draw](#), [submit](#), and [comment](#) on proposed district boundaries.

On November 1, 2021, the committee will receive and consider the recommendations of the Utah Independent Redistricting Commission.

A special session of the Legislature to enact new boundaries is expected in November 2021.

**Chairs:** Rep. Paul Ray / Sen. Scott D. Sandall  
**Staff:** Joseph T. Wade (Policy Analyst) / Michael E. Curtis (Attorney) / Thomas R. Vaughn (Attorney) / Jerry D. Howe (Senior Strategic Initiatives Manager) / Naomi Garrow (Executive Assistant)

## Legislative Water Development Commission

October 19, 2021

### **Flow Rates or Quantity for Plumbing Fixtures**

Heard from a legislator regarding 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Flow Rates or Quantity for Plumbing Fixtures](#)," which would amend the flow rates for certain plumbing fixtures.

### **Instream Flow of Water**

*Action:* Approved as a commission bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Instream Water Flow Amendments](#)," which would address change applications for instream water flows.

### **Utah Lake**

Received a [presentation](#) from a legislator regarding progress on developing draft legislation that would address the management of Utah Lake.

### **Water Rights Proof on Small Amounts of Water**

*Action:* Approved as a commission bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Water Rights Proofs on Small Amounts of Water](#)," which would modify the requirements for a proof submitted to the State Engineer regarding a small amount of water.

**Chairs:** Rep. Joel Ferry / Sen. David P. Hinkins  
**Staff:** Nathan W. Brady (Policy Analyst) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Alan Houston (Attorney) / Michelle Clifford (Administrative Assistant)

## Native American Legislative Liaison Committee

October 18, 2021

### **American Indian-Alaska Native Health Affairs Report**

Received a [presentation](#) from the Office of American Indian-Alaska Native Health Affairs on the activities and accomplishments of the office, as required by Utah Code Section [26-7-2.5](#).

### **Division of Indian Affairs Report**

Received a presentation from the Division of Indian Affairs regarding its activities.

### **Draft Legislation: Student Tribal Regalia Use Amendments**

Discussed 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Student Tribal Regalia Use Amendments](#)," which would permit qualifying students to wear tribal regalia during a high school graduation ceremony.

*Action:* Approved as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Student Tribal Regalia Use Amendments](#)."

### **Native American Education Report and Issues**

Received a [presentation](#) from the State Board of Education regarding Native American education in Utah.

Received reports from [San Juan School District](#) and Uintah School District on grants made under the American Indian and Alaska Native Education State Program, as required by Utah Code Section [53F-5-604](#).

### **Native American Mascots**

Received a presentation from a legislator regarding the use of Native American names, imagery, symbols, and regalia as school mascots. The legislator provided the following handouts:

- [Current Depictions of Utah's Native People](#);
- [Utah Tribal Nations](#); and
- [Indian Tribal Lands](#).

**Chairs:** Rep. Christine F. Watkins / Sen. David P. Hinkins  
**Staff:** Julie Humberstone (Policy Analyst) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)



## [Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment](#)

### Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Heard from a legislator regarding work on draft legislation that would address the Department of Natural Resources, conservation efforts, and the coordination of conservation and outdoor recreation.

### State Monuments and Parks

Discussed 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[State Monuments Act Amendments](#)," which would address the process for creating state monuments.

### State Water Policy

*Action: Approved as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[State Water Policy Amendments](#)," which would amend the state water policy to include the recharge of aquifers.*

### Trespassing Code Review

Received a [presentation](#) from committee staff and heard comments from the Division of Wildlife Resources, the Utah Farm Bureau, and a legislator regarding the trespass code.

### Water Conservation Issues

Received presentations from the Department of Natural Resources and the Utah Rivers Council regarding ways to incentivize water conservation and discourage water waste.

### Water Supply and Drought Conditions

Received a report from the Drought Response Committee regarding the status of the drought in Utah and the impact that recent precipitation has had on the projected water supply.



### Watershed Restoration Initiative

Heard from a legislator and the director of the Watershed Restoration Initiative program regarding the work that the program is doing, the recommendations from a [legislative audit](#), and a proposal to codify the work of the program in statute.

**Chairs:** Rep. Keven J. Stratton / Sen. Scott D. Sandall  
**Staff:** Nathan W. Brady (Policy Analyst) / Patricia Owen (Attorney) / Alan Houston (Attorney) / Michelle Clifford (Administrative Assistant)

## [Political Subdivisions](#)

### Gradual Transitions for County Classifications and County Forms of Government

Received a presentation from the Tooele County Council on the county's experience changing from a commission form of government to a council-manager form of government.

### Land Use Task Force Update

Received a presentation from the Property Rights Coalition and the Utah League of Cities and Towns on the priorities of the Land Use Task Force.

### Quality Growth Commission Report

Received a statutorily-required [report](#) from the Quality Growth Commission.

**Chairs:** Rep. James A. Dunnigan / Sen. Michael K. McKell  
**Staff:** Sarah Flanigan (Policy Analyst) / Peter Asplund (Attorney) / Finn Andrew Rose (Administrative Assistant)

## [Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology](#)

### Carbon Free Technologies: Opportunities and Challenges in Utah

Received presentations that explored various carbon free technologies in Utah, including their strengths, challenges, benefits, and opportunities.

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems on updates to the nuclear module project with NuScale Power.

Received a [presentation](#) from Rocky Mountain Power on its 2021 Integrated Resource Management Plan, with special attention paid to plans and goals to incorporate more solar, wind, and advanced nuclear power into its portfolio.

Received a [presentation](#) from the Department of Transportation on the state's plan for mapping electric vehicle charging stations and the implementation of charging stations in rural Utah by the private sector.

Heard from a legislator, the Carbon Science Initiative at the University of Utah, and Steam and Control Systems, Inc. on the possibilities for carbon capture and storage in Utah and the need for a regulatory framework and support from the Legislature.

## Rate Increases in the Colorado River Basin

Received presentations from the [Western Area Power Administration](#), [Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems](#), [Colorado River Energy Distributors Association](#), and Utah Rural Electric Cooperative Association on the consequences of the long-term drought conditions that have pushed Lake Powell and other reservoirs to historically low levels resulting in less electricity generation and subsequent rate increases.

**Chairs:** Rep. Carl R. Albrecht / Sen. David P. Hinkins  
**Staff:** Samantha D. Brucker (Policy Analyst) / Rikka Strong (Attorney) / Michelle Clifford (Administrative Assistant)

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## Revenue and Taxation

### Draft Legislation: Cigarette Tax Amendments

Discussed 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Cigarette Tax Amendments](#)," which would modify the definitions of "cigarette" and "electronic cigarette" in the Cigarette and Tobacco Tax and Licensing Act.

*Action:* Approved as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "Cigarette Tax Amendments."

### Draft Legislation: Renter's Credit Amendments

Discussed 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Renter's Credit Amendments](#)," which would address the subtraction of certain utilities from rent for purposes of calculating the renter's credit in the Property Tax Act.

*Action:* Approved as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "Renter's Credit Amendments."

### Draft Legislation: Utah Rural Jobs Act Amendments

Discussed 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[Utah Rural Jobs Acts Amendments](#)," which would modify the Utah Rural Jobs Act.

*Action:* Approved as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation, "Utah Rural Jobs Acts Amendments."

### Income Tax Credits Review

Received a [presentation](#) and [handout](#) from the State Historic Preservation Office on the Historic Preservation tax credit.

Received a [presentation](#) from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity on the Economic Development tax credit.

### Income Tax Rate

Received an [economic update](#) from the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst and a [presentation](#) from the Taxpayers Association on its proposed income tax rate cut.

Also received comments from Voices for Utah Children.

## Sunset Review: State Transient Room Tax Act

Received an introduction from committee staff to the [State Transient Room Tax Act](#), which imposes a 0.32% tax on certain tourist accommodations. Per Section [631-1-259](#), the Act will be repealed January 1, 2023, if the Legislature takes no action.

**Chairs:** Rep. Robert M. Spendlove / Sen. Daniel McCay  
**Staff:** Alex R. Janak (Policy Analyst) / Julie Humberstone (Policy Analyst) / Andrea Valenti Arthur (Attorney) / Christine R. Gilbert (Attorney) / Royce Gador (Administrative Assistant)

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## Transportation

### Autonomous Vehicles

Received a [presentation](#) from a legislator on the potential for unaccompanied minors to use an autonomous rideshare vehicle. Discussed activities of private driverless vehicle companies, regulatory challenges, and policy opportunities.

### Draft Legislation: Highway Jurisdiction Transfer

Reviewed 2022 General Session draft legislation, "[State Road Jurisdiction Amendments](#)," which would amend the descriptions of certain highways under state jurisdiction.

Received a presentation proposing the addition of two roads to the state highway system and modification of one state highway route description.

*Action:* Adopted as a committee bill 2022 General Session draft legislation "State Road Jurisdiction Amendments."

### Public Private Partnerships

Received a [presentation](#) on Utah Transit Authority's public private partnerships in the areas of transit-oriented development, housing affordability, mobility services, electric charging infrastructure, and academic research.

### Safety Inspections

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Highway Patrol on vehicle crash data in Utah since the passage of 2017 General Session H.B. 265, "[Safety Inspection Amendments](#)," which largely removed safety inspections for passenger vehicles.

Received a [report](#) from committee staff on crash data in states with vehicle safety inspection programs and research on the impact of safety inspections.

### Special Group Plate

Received a [report](#) from the Division of Motor Vehicles that described the special group plate types, year issued, number of current registrations, cost, fees, and contribution requirements.

Discussed how the program is administered and the state license plate design.

### State Airplane Fleet and Operations

Received a [presentation](#) from the Division of Aeronautics that detailed usage of the state's airplane fleet between 2015 and 2021, and compared the hourly costs for a new eight-passenger state plane to a private charter plane.



## Towing Request for Information

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Highway Patrol (UHP) that summarized results from UHP's request for information from stakeholders. The presentation evaluated the availability of vendors, products, and technology capable of increasing efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency in the dispatching of towing providers and management of [towing rotations in Salt Lake County](#), which experiences high demand for tow truck services.

Heard comments from representatives of the insurance and towing industries.

***Action:** Voted to recommend that the UHP take action to create a formal request for proposal to include a third-party towing vendor.*

## Transportation Mode Costs

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) that compared the cost per mile for bus rapid transit (BRT) projects in Utah to other transit agencies. The presentation also detailed costs for Point of the Mountain BRT and compared rates to other UTA BRTs and a hypothetical light rail.

Heard comments from Stadler Rail, a private train manufacturer.

**Chairs:** Rep. Kay J. Christofferson / Sen. Wayne A. Harper  
**Staff:** Alma Weber (Policy Analyst) / Kurt P. Gasser (Attorney) / Patrick Grecu (Attorney) / Finn Andrew Rose (Administrative Assistant)

## Veterans and Military Affairs Commission

September 28, 2021

### Military and Defense Economic Impact Report

Received a [presentation](#) from the Utah Defense Alliance and the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute regarding a recent assessment of the [economic impacts](#) of Utah's defense industry.

### Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs Update

Received a [presentation](#) from the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs regarding its annual report on services provided to veterans and military personnel.

**Chairs:** Rep. Paul Ray / Sen. Todd D. Weiler  
**Staff:** Lisa Sorensen (Policy Analyst) / Esther D. Chelsea-McCarty (Attorney) / Tracey Fredman (Administrative Assistant)

