



2025 MAY INTERIM

May 21, 2025

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<u>Senate Business and Labor Confirmation Committee</u>	Senate Business and Labor Confirmation Committee and the full Senate confirmed Sheila Srivastava, Treasurer, Salt Lake County, as a member of the State Money Management Council. She fills the seat vacated by K. Wayne Cushing, former Treasurer, Salt Lake County, due to his retirement.
<u>Economic Development and Workforce Services</u>	<p>Economic Development and Workforce Services adopted its <u>interim study list</u>, which includes wide-ranging priorities such as tourism investment strategies, workforce service realignment, the future of the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, and the structure of Utah's housing policy ecosystem. Presenters were asked to speak to the current status of their subject areas, identify persistent challenges, and offer recommendations for improvement.</p> <p>The committee reviewed critical programs and set the stage for complex policy discussions around <u>housing</u>, <u>economic development</u>, and <u>workforce initiatives</u>.</p>



<p><u>Federalism Commission</u></p>	<p>The Federalism Commission discussed its expanded role in state-federal oversight, bolstered by new statutory authority and a broadened coalition of stakeholders. The tone of the meeting was structural, grounded in the constitutional allocation of powers and framed by the belief that restoring functional federalism is essential to reducing political volatility and safeguarding liberty.</p> <p>The meeting featured robust discussions about the Commission’s re-defined mandate following the passage of HB488, which broadened its authority, expanded its membership, and institutionalized partnerships with Utah Valley University through the Center for Constitutional Studies and the Gary R. Herbert Institute. These two entities now play central roles in implementing a federalism curriculum, organizing an annual federalism summit, and coordinating outreach to build a state-led national federalism network.</p>
<p><u>Government Operations</u></p>	<p>Government Operations approved its interim study list without amendment. Clerks responded to a presentation of an Election Cybersecurity Audit, sharing that clerks have already received new training related to the limited findings in the audit, and that they look forward to continuing to strengthen the security of Utah’s elections.</p>
<p><u>Health and Human Services</u></p>	<p>Health and Human Services added the topics of toxins in feminine hygiene products and senior citizen food insecurity to the interim study list and then approved the amended interim study list. The Office of the Legislative Auditor General (OLAG) presented on two Behavioral Health Audits.</p> <p>An audit on governance was previously presented in November and recommended a central governing authority and strengthening the Office of Substance Use and Mental Health’s (OSUMH) oversight over Local Mental Health and Substance Use Authorities.</p> <p>An audit of the behavioral health workforce recommended more quantitative data, especially from the private sector, more involvement from DHHS to address barriers that hinder hiring in the public sector, better guidance in how schools use their behavioral health funds to hire counselors, and updates for online provider directories to get rid of inaccuracies and “ghost providers,” especially for Medicaid enrollees. Following the behavioral health workforce audit, the committee opened a bill file regarding online provider directories.</p>

<u>Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice</u>	<p>Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice adopted its interim study list, including reducing violent crime, improving digital evidence protocols, evaluating jail/prison capacity, and addressing AI and crypto-enabled crime. The Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) recommended a policy process to assess new criminal penalty proposals based on statutory overlap, real-world sentencing data, and sentencing guidelines, including post-legislative impact evaluations after three years. The Utah Sentencing Commission explained how sentencing guidelines are structured to balance discretion with evidence-based recommendations.</p>
<u>Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Confirmation Committee</u>	<p>Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Confirmation Committee and the full Senate confirmed Gov. Cox's nominee Kelly Pehrson as commissioner of the Utah Department of Agriculture. He fills the seat vacated by Commissioner Craig Buttars due to his retirement.</p>
<u>Political Subdivisions</u>	<p>Political Subdivisions approved their interim study list, amending the list to include a discussion of efficiencies when a county is "wall to wall" cities, and if there is a need to split counties that grow too big. The committee will continue work on Title 17 recodification with hopes to have draft legislation by the November meeting. Elected officials with suggestions should send them to Katie for incorporation.</p>
<u>Revenue and Taxation</u>	<p>Revenue and Taxation approved their interim study list, with a further commitment to examine if there are too many tax increment districts, and what impacts occur when increment districts overlap.</p> <p>Commissioner Valentine, Tax Commission, presented issues the Commission would like Revenue and Taxation to study this summer, including harmonizing various sections of code and cross-referencing exemptions.</p>