

UTAH CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2021 General Legislative Session

Issue #1

January 24, 2021

Welcome to the 2021 Legislative Update

This issue includes highlights of week one, what we can expect in the week ahead, and information for protecting wildlife and the environment. Please direct any questions or comments to Steve Erickson: erickson.steve1@comcast.net.

About the Legislative Update

The Legislative Update is made possible by the **Utah Audubon** Council and contributing organizations. Each Update provides bill and budget item descriptions and status updates throughout the Session, as well as important Session dates and key committees. For the most up-to-date information and the names and contact information for all legislators, check the Legislature's website at www.le.utah.gov. The Legislative Update focuses on legislative information pertaining to wildlife, sensitive and invasive species, public lands, state parks, SITLA land management, energy development, renewable energy and conservation, and water issues. The Update will be distributed after each Friday of the Session. We may also send out additional Action Alerts during the Session as issues arise that need quick action. We hope each Update

issue will prepare you to contact your legislators with your opinions and concerns!

ACTION ALERT!

New Governor Spencer Cox is pushing a proposed merger of DNR and DEQ. It's a terrible idea for a whole host of reasons, starting with the very different missions of the departments. DNR is primarily responsible for putting natural resources to "beneficial use"; DEQ's role is to protect the public health. Many view this move as a hostile takeover by DNR that will diminish the role of DEQ.

<https://www.sltrib.com/news/environment/2021/01/14/does-plan-merge-utahs/>

Call the Governor's Office (801.538.1000) and express your opposition to this ill-advised effort. Urge the Governor to withdraw this bill proposal and call for an independent study of the issue for the rest of 2021.

News of Week One (Week # 1)

Bills that were vetted and approved by interim committees during the “off-season” get expedited floor action in the first week or so, explaining why some bills are already through the House. Two controversial bills of note advanced this week.

Energy solutions seeks legislative approval for construction of a new landfill to bury lightly radioactive rubble from decommissioning of aging nuclear power plants nationwide (SJR 7).

HB 17 would ban local governments from passing ordinances that would require clean power sources in new construction, though no Utah city or county has proposed this. It’s one of a passel of bills aimed at local governments, and likely to be hotly debated for some time to come.

Budget News

The state is flush with money as the budget process begins, with hundreds of millions of dollars of revenues above previous estimates, and likely more federal money on the way. Of course, having a fat wallet doesn’t guarantee wise spending decisions, but it does offer some real opportunities for forward-looking investments in clean energy, climate and pollution initiatives, water conservation, and more.

Unfortunately, Governor Cox’s first 500-days “roadmap” would head the state in the opposite direction. He wants to redouble efforts to build the Lake Powell pipeline and the Utah Inland Port, double down on contentious fights over public lands while opposing restoration of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, and push for more fossil fuel production, export and storage.

Our illustrious Attorney General Sean Reyes has intervened in a lawsuit against Richmond, CA, to overturn an ordinance to it passed to ban coal shipments through town. We need to be ready to resist yet another effort by the coal lobby to spend some of the \$53 million in your tax dollars they’ve socked away to keep a seaport open for the export of fossil fuels.

What’s Ahead

Week 2 will see Appropriations Subcommittees meet each morning from 8:00-10:50. NRAEQ Appropriations meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Standing Committees meet each day from 2-5. Both chambers will be on the floor each day from 11 to 11:50. Caucus lunches are held on Tuesday and Thursday all Session. The Capitol will open to the public Monday. Here are the calendars for the 2nd Week:

House: <https://le.utah.gov/~2021/schedule/h2-2.pdf>

Senate: <https://le.utah.gov/~2021/schedule/s2.pdf>

Rules Committees

Senate Rules Committee:

Sen. Greg Buxton, Chair gbuxton@le.utah.gov
Sen. Lincoln Fillmore lfillmore@le.utah.gov
Sen. Kirk Cullimore, Vice-Chair kcullimore@le.utah.gov
Sen. Wayne Harper wharper@le.utah.gov
Sen. Karen Mayne kmayne@le.utah.gov
Sen. Jani Iwamoto jiwamoto@le.utah.gov
Sen. Don Ipson dipson@le.utah.gov
Sen. Todd Weiler tweiler@le.utah.gov
Sen. Ron Winterton rwinterton@le.utah.gov

House Rules Committee:

Rep. Tim Hawkes, Chair thawkes@le.utah.gov
Rep. Robert Spendlove, Vice-Chair rspendlove@le.utah.gov
Rep. Angela Romero angelaromero@le.utah.gov
Rep. Walt Brooks wbrooks@le.utah.gov
Rep. Sandra Hollins shollins@le.utah.gov
Rep. Casey Snider csnider@le.utah.gov
Rep. Calvin Musselman cmusselman@le.utah.gov

BILL TRACKING LIST

Priority Code: 1=High; 2=Medium; 3=Low

Bill	Sponsor	Description/Status	Priority	Position
HB 14 Water Conservancy District Amendments	Rep. Handy	Establishes a process for filling a vacancy on the board of a water conservancy district located in more than one county, including providing notice, nominating candidates, and appointing an individual to fill the vacancy. Passed House 72-0-3 on 1/19. On Senate 2 nd Reading Calendar.	3	Support
HB 17 Utility Permitting Amendments	Rep. Handy	Prohibits municipalities and counties from restricting the connection of utility services to customers on the basis of the type of energy the utility service provides. The intent is to ban local ordinances requiring new buildings be all electric (no natural gas). Passed House Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee (PUET) 8-4 on 1/21. On House 3 rd Reading Calendar.	1	Oppose
HB 24 State Engineer Electronic Communications	Rep. Ferry	Permits the state engineer to send electronic communications under certain circumstances. Passed House 72-0-3 on 1/21. In Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee (TPUET).	3	Support
Substitute HB 29 Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Emergency Response Plan	Rep. Stratton	Requires the Division of Wildlife Resources to develop a statewide aquatic invasive species emergency response plan aimed at remediating the spread of aquatic invasive species throughout the state. Passed House 71-0-4 on 1/22. In Senate Rules Committee.	3	Support
Substitute HB 32 Energy Balancing Account Amendments	Rep. Albrecht	Provides a mechanism and timeline for an interim rate as a part of the energy balancing account process. Passed House 72-0-3 on 1/21.	3	Neutral

Substitute HB 45 Radon Task Force	Rep. Stratton	Creates the Radon Task Force. Provides for the appointment of task force members, requires the task force to study and make recommendations on ways to increase public awareness about the risks of radon and ways to mitigate Utah residents' exposure to radon. Passed House 65-8-2 on 1/22.	3	Support
HB 65 Wildland Fire Amendments	Rep. Snider	Appropriates \$200,000 in on-going funds from the Sovereign Lands Restricted Account to give a salary increase to wildland firefighters and requires the Division of FFSL to develop and maintain a wildfire risk assessment mapping tool. In House NRAE Committee.	2	Support if from another funding source
HB 79 Mineral and Rock Amendments	Rep. Brooks	Modifies definitions under the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act; and adds basalt to the definition of “rock aggregate” for regulatory purposes. In House NRAE.	2	Oppose
HB 83 Migratory Bird Production Area Amendments	Rep. Ferry	Extends the time for creating a migratory bird production area, provides a process to add property to a migratory bird production area, provides for inclusion of easements, addresses limitations on local ordinances and uses by a guest of a migratory bird production area under provisions that limit landowner liability, and prohibits exercising eminent domain under certain circumstances. In House NRAE Committee.	2	Support
HB 89 Hydrogen Tax Credit	Rep. Sagers	Creates tax credit provisions related to hydrogen energy. In House Rules.	3	Neutral
HB 91 Tax Credit for Alternate Fuel Heavy Duty Vehicles	Rep. Stoddard	Extends the availability of the income tax credit related to certain alternative fuel heavy duty vehicles. In House Rules.	3	Support
HB 98 Local Government Building	Rep. Ray	Prohibits a local government from regulating certain building design elements and landscaping and inspection	2	Oppose

Regulation Amendments		requirements. In House Rules.		
HB 109 Wildlife Amendments	Rep. Lyman	Requires the Division of Wildlife Resources to deliver notice to an affected landowner or an agent of an affected landowner, either in writing or orally, before the taking of wildlife on privately owned land. In House Rules.	3	Studying
HB 111 Off-Highway Vehicle Amendments	Rep. Albrecht	Allows an individual under 18 years old to operate an off-highway vehicle under certain conditions. Passed House Transportation Committee 11-0-1 on 1/22. On House 3 rd .	3	Neutral
HB 123 Feasibility Study for Air Quality Laboratory	Rep. Handy	Directs the Division of Air Quality to conduct a feasibility study regarding the creation of an air quality and changing climate solutions laboratory. In House Rules Committee.	2	Support
HB 131 State Facility Energy Efficiency Amendments	Rep. Handy	Requires state facilities to provide utility use information to the Division of Facilities Construction and Management. Passed House PUET Committee 12-0 on 1/22. On House 3 rd Reading Calendar.	3	Support
HB 144 Water Pricing Structure	Rep. Moss	Requires retail water providers to consider lot sizes and outdoor water use of customers in setting block rate price structures. In House Rules.	3	Oppose
HB 145 Clean and Renewable Energy Act Amendments	Rep. Ward	Requires by 2030 that 30% of a large-scale electric utility's (e.g. Rocky Mt. Power) annual retail sales come from qualifying clean electricity if use of qualifying clean electricity is cost effective. In House PUET Committee.	1	Support
HB 153 Energy Storage Asset Amendments	Rep. Handy	Enacts a refundable corporate and individual tax credit for the purchase of property that stores energy generated by mechanical, chemical, thermal, or photovoltaic means for commercial or industrial use later. In House Rules.	2	Studying

HB 166 Livestock Amendments	Rep. Snider	Addresses penalties involving the treatment and theft of livestock, including livestock guardian dogs, and livestock infrastructure. Passed House NRAE 10-0-2 on 1/22. On House 3 rd Reading Calendar.	3	Studying
HB 171 Agricultural Land Use Regulation	Rep. Chew	Prohibits a municipality or county from restricting, or regulating in conflict with state statute, the type of crop, including industrial hemp, that may be grown in certain areas zoned for agriculture. Passed House NRAE 8-0-6 on 1/22. On House 3 rd Reading Calendar.	3	Support
HB 208 Water Quality Amendments	Rep. Ray	Provides that an individual enforcing water quality standards or requirements, and while acting wholly within the individual's employment with the organization, is exempt from liability under certain circumstances. In House Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Committee.	3	Studying
HB 209 Vehicle Registration Fee Revisions	Rep. Christofferson	Increases vehicle registration fees on electric, hybrid, plug-in hybrid, and other vehicles. In House Rules Committee.	2	Oppose
HB 215 Jordan River Improvements Amendments	Rep. Acton	Directs the Jordan River Commission to work with the Department of Transportation regarding safety, signage and storm water run-off issues related to state highways and the Jordan River. In House Rules.	3	Support
HB 217 Regulatory Sandbox Program Amendments	Rep. Maloy	Creates the General Regulatory Sandbox Program (sandbox program), which allows the office to waive laws or regulations applicable to a participant under certain circumstances. In House Rules.	3	Studying
HB 223 Alternate Fuel Incentives Amendments	Rep. Ballard	Creates tax and other incentives for the production and use of hydrogen fuel, and expands the uses of money in the Throughput Infrastructure Fund to include the production of generators that use hydrogen fuel cells. In House Rules.	3	Studying

School and Child Care Center Water Testing Requirements	Rep. Handy	No text yet.		
Wind Energy Facility Siting Amendments	Rep. Ray	No text yet.		
CR Supporting Extension and Expansion of the Radiation Compensation Act	Rep. Owens	No text yet.		
Integrated Resource Plan Amendments	Rep. Handy	No text yet.		
Waste Tire Recycling Amendments	Rep. Handy	No text yet.		
Wildland Fire and Recovery Act Amendments	Rep. Albrecht	No text yet.		
Butch Cassidy State Monument Designation (Albrecht)	Rep. Albrecht	No text yet.		
Outdoor Recreational Grant Program Amendments	Rep. Winder	No text yet.		
State Park Entry Fee Amendments	Rep. Barlow	No text yet.		
HCR 1 Encouraging a Balanced Approach to the Release of Water	Rep. Chew	Expresses support and recognition of the Green River Stakeholders and the need to reduce adverse effects of current Flaming Gorge Dam operations to the local	3	Support

from Flaming Gorge Reservoir		communities, recreational businesses, ranchers, farmers, landowners, and individuals who work and live within the river corridor. In House NRAE Committee.		
HCR 2 Effect of Federal Land Valuation Method	Rep. Stratton	Clarifies the lack of impact that a federal land valuation model developed by the Federalism Commission should not be used to affect greenbelt valuations. In House Rules.	3	Neutral
HCR 5 Encouraging Statewide Emissions Reduction Goals	Rep. Handy	Recognizes the negative impact that poor air quality and the changing climate has on the economy of the state and encourages the adoption of emissions reduction goals. In House Rules.	3	Support
SB 5 Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Quality Base Budget	Sen. Hinkins	Supplements or reduces appropriations otherwise provided for the support and operation of state government for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, and appropriates funds for the support and operation of state government for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022. Circled on Senate 2 nd Reading Calendar.	1	Support
SB 15 Workforce Solutions for Air Quality Amendments	Sen. McCay	Requires the Department of Human Resource Management to provide, measure and report annually on teleworking options for state employees during bad air quality days. In Senate Government Operations and Political Subdivisions Committee.	3	Support
SB 20 Air Quality Policy Advisory Board Sunset Extension	Sen. Iwamoto	Extends the sunset date of the Air Quality Policy Advisory Board. In Senate NRAE Committee.	3	Support
SB 21 Federal Land	Sen. Hinkins	Extends the sunset date of the advisory committee that	3	Oppose

Applications Advisory Committee		provides advice and recommendations to the public lands policy coordinator and the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office. In Senate NRAE Committee.		
SB 40 Petroleum Storage Tanks Amendments	Sen. Hinkins	Addresses the regulation of aboveground petroleum storage tanks. In Senate NRAE Committee.	3	Support
SB 44 Payments in Lieu of Taxes Funds For Counties	Sen. Fillmore	Creates the Federal Lands Payment in Lieu of Tax restricted account and establishes rules for distribution of federal funds paid to certain Utah counties to offset federal lands not subject to local property taxes. In Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.		Studying
SB 61 Outdoor Advertising Amendments	Sen. Sandall	Prohibits a municipality or county from enacting or enforcing an ordinance that prevents an owner of certain signs from modifying or constructing an electronic or mechanical changeable message sign in certain circumstances; and requiring a sign owner to forfeit one sign in order to upgrade or construct another electronic or mechanical changeable sign. In Senate Business and Labor Committee.	2	Oppose
SB 96 Legislative Water Development Commission Amendments	Sen. Iwamoto	Modifies provisions related to the LWDC. In Senate NRAE Committee.	3	Support
SB 104 Tax Levy for Animal Control	Sen. Weiler	Authorizes a county to impose a property tax levy for animal welfare services. In Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.	3	Support
SB 120	Sen. Kitchen	Prohibits the placement of a sign on certain property unless a property owner and a sign owner have entered into an outdoor advertising agreement. Prohibits the	2	Support

		inclusion of certain terms or provisions in an outdoor advertising agreement and allows a property owner, municipality, county, or the Utah Department of Transportation to file an action to void certain outdoor advertising agreements. In Senate Rules Committee.		
Regulation of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations	Sen. Sandall	No text yet.		
SJR 7 Approving Energy Solutions Constructing and Operating a Landfill for Nonhazardous Solid Waste	Sen. Sandall	Grants provisional legislative approval to Energy Solutions for the construction and operation of a Class VI commercial nonhazardous solid waste landfill. ES intends to add another landfill to receive nonhazardous solid waste that may be slightly radioactive from the decommissioning of nuclear power plants that currently use its licensed low level radioactive waste disposal facility. Passed Senate NRAE Committee 5-0-3 on 1/21. On Senate 2 nd .	1	Oppose

Important Dates

January 19 First day of session

January 29 Last day to request bills or appropriations (by noon)

Last day to approve bills for numbering (by noon)

February 27 Last day for the Executive Appropriations Committee to complete all budget decisions necessary to draft the final appropriations bills

March 2 Bonding bill available to legislators by noon and final action taken on it by calendared closing time.

Last day to pass bills with fiscal note of \$10,000 or more

Last day for a motion to reconsider previous actions

Last day to consider bills from own house

March 3 Last day for legislators to prioritize bills and other programs with fiscal impact

March 3 General appropriations bill, supplemental appropriations bill, and school finance bill available to legislators by calendared floor time and final action taken on each bill by calendared closing time

Second supplemental appropriations bill available to legislators by calendared floor time and final action taken by noon

March 5 Last day of session

March 25 Last day governor may sign or veto bills

May 4 Last day a veto-override session may begin

May 5 Normal effective date for bills

First day to file bills for the 2020 General Session

Executive Appropriations Committee

Rep. Brad Last, Co-Chair

blast@le.utah.gov

Sen. Jerry Stevenson, Co-Chair

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Rep. Val Peterson vpeterson@le.utah.gov

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House Office: (801) 538-1029 (messages)

Governor's Office: (801) 538-1000

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House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Standing Committee

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