

UTAH CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2023 General Legislative Session

Issue #1

January 22, 2023

Welcome to the 2023 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!

This legislative session could again see dramatic progress on important water conservation and investment in efforts to save Great Salt Lake. Another repeat priority will be to resist funding for Cedar City's West Desert Water Grab of groundwater in the GSL Groundwater Flow System (Pine Valley Water Supply Project). Contact your legislators and legislative leaders and let them know what you hope and expect them to do!

News of Week One (Week # 1)

The legislative session is off to a fast start on highly controversial issues like school vouchers, abortion and transsexual youth, with tax cuts waiting in the wing. The more deliberative budget process is off to the usual slower start, with the focus on passing the base budgets by the Friday, 1/27 deadline.

Several good conservation bills were introduced and a couple advanced in committee action, including SB 76, which will help to coordinate local land use planning with water supply plans. We will be advocating for a top priority bill, HB 218, which would place emissions requirements on the Inland Port. Two bills we strongly oppose are SB 113 to block local control over CAFOs and SB 107 to fund a hydrocarbon highway in the Uinta Basin. We've already begun work to amend two worthwhile bills (SB 53 and SB 119). We will also support second tier priorities HBs 121, 137, 150, 217, and 262, and SBs 34 and 92.

Budget News

Utah has another record budget, now at some \$28 billion, with \$2-\$3 billion in one-time and on-going new state and federal money to spend. So of course, legislative leaders promise another "Year of the Tax Cut". Meanwhile,

advocates call for forward-looking investments in education, human services, clean energy, climate and pollution initiatives, water conservation, free transit, and other unmet needs totaling over \$5 Billion.

We will be supporting Gov. Cox's recommendations for \$561 million in water conservation initiatives, including \$100 m. for ag-water rights leases in the Great Salt Lake watershed to shepherd to the Lake. He also asks for \$25 m. for the GSL Water Trust, \$1.5 m. for GSL and Bear L. lakebed topographical data, and \$160,000 to study air quality impacts from dusts blowing off GSL shorelines.

Other important recommendations include \$5 m. for turf removal rebates and funding for key water infrastructure projects like water reuse in southern Utah, and \$200 m. for the Agricultural Water Optimization Program.

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. Monday's meeting includes discussions of water issues and Requests for Appropriations. Standing Committees meet each day from 2-5. Both chambers will be on the floor each day from 11 to 11:50 or 12:15. Caucus lunches are held on Tuesday and Thursday all Session. Here are the calendars for the 2nd Week:

House: <https://le.utah.gov/~2023/schedule/h2.pdf>

Senate: <https://le.utah.gov/~2023/schedule/s2r1.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. Todd Weiler tweiler@le.utah.gov
Sen. Luz Escamilla lescamilla@le.utah.gov
Sen. Ron Winterton rwinterton@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. Casey Snider, Chair csnider@le.utah.gov
Rep. Jordan Teuscher, Vice-Chair jteuscher@le.utah.gov
Rep. Ryan Wilcox ryanwilcox@le.utah.gov
Rep. Walt Brooks wbrooks@le.utah.gov
Rep. Andrew Stoddard astoddard@le.utah.gov
Rep. Ashlee Matthews amatthews@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 30 Wildlife Resources Code Recodification	Rep. Snider	Recodification clarifies, reorders, removes outdated language, addresses cross-references, and makes technical changes to the entire section of Wildlife Resources Code.	3	Support
HB 32 Outdoor Recreation Amendments	Rep. Stratton	Requires the Division of Outdoor Recreation to prepare a recreation management plan for Provo Canyon.	3	Support
HB 33 Water-Related Liability Amendments	Rep. Albrecht	Clarifies that water facility owners and operators have a duty to prevent waste of water or property damages, and shields them from liability for damage or injury under certain circumstances.	3	Support
HB 39 State Resource Management Plan Amendments	Rep. Stratton	Adopts a state resource management plan to replace a previously adopted plan and makes technical changes.	3	Support
HB 114 Substitute Theft Defense Amendments	Rep. Albrecht	Provides that it is not a defense to theft of livestock that the livestock is sick, injured, or a liability to the owner. This is a response to the acquittal of activists who trespassed on Smithfield's Circle 4 Farms to call attention to alleged animal abuse.	3	Neutral
HB 121 Wildlife Habitat Account Amendments	Rep. Snider	Increases percentage and amounts of money that go to wetlands that are beneficial to waterfowl and decreases amounts that go to upland and big game projects. In House Rules.	2	Support

HB 137 State Crustacean Designation	Rep. Lesser	Designates the brine shrimp as the state crustacean. In House Rules.	2	Support
HB 145 Private Property and Wildlife Amendments	Rep. Chew	Prohibits the Division of Wildlife Resources and the Wildlife Board from conditioning participation in a wildlife program on a person granting public access to private property with exceptions. In House Rules.	2	Studying
HB 150 Emergency Water Shortages Amendments	Rep. Albrecht	Clarifies the process for the declaration of emergency shortages of water by the governor and creates a preference for uses of water during a temporary water shortage emergency. In House NRAE Committee.	2	Support
HB 169 Urban Farming Assessment Act	Rep. Karen Peterson	Modifies the Urban Farming Assessment Act to provide that a county may limit an authorization of urban farming to either cultivating crops or engaging in livestock production or may allow both.	3	Studying
HB 186 Golf –Related Water Modifications	Rep. Welton	Requires reporting of water use for the operation of a golf course or driving range and provides for the publication of the information on websites.	3	Support
HB 206 Airport Land Use Amendments	Rep. Ballard	Amends definitions related to airport influence areas and airport overlay zones; encourages a political subdivision to adopt land use regulations that protect airports, including: adopting airport overlay zones; notifying of airport impacts; and granting of aviation easements. Amends provisions related to governing law in the event of a conflict between land-use regulations related to airport overlay zones. In House Rules.	2	Studying

HB 207 Compact Commission Amendments	Rep. Snider	Changes the authority to appoint one member each to the Bear River and the Columbia River Compact Commissions from the Director of the Division of Water Resources to the State Engineer.	3	Support
HB 217 School Energy and Water Reductions	Rep. Bennion	Authorizes the State Board of Education to issue grants to schools related to energy and water reductions, provides for prioritizing certain projects, and requires rulemaking and use of an evaluation panel. Appropriates \$9.9 m. one-time from the Income Tax Fund. In House Education Committee.	2	Support
HB 218 Emissions Reduction Amendments	Rep. Stoddard	Enacts the Pollution Emission Reduction Act, defines terms and imposes certain emission related requirements on the board of the Inland Port Authority. In House Rules.	1	Support
HB220 Foreign Government Land Possession Requirements	Rep. Chistofferson	Prohibits a foreign government or an entity under a foreign government's control from holding an interest in real property in the state. In House Rules.	3	Studying
HB 222 Bison Amendments	Rep. Watkins	Requires the issuance of 365-day bison hunting permits under certain circumstances.	3	Studying
HB 224 Outdoor Recreation Amendments	Rep. Stenquist	Creates the Recreation Coordinated Investment Initiative to manage, maintain, expand, restore, and improve outdoor recreation infrastructure on public lands within the state. In House Rules.	2	Support
HB 261 Fire Related Amendments	Rep. Snider	Addresses prescribed fires and pile burns on private land, including when burning is allowed and permits and notice are required, as well as criminal penalties and liability. Addresses the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund. Enacts provisions related to wildland-urban interface fire prevention, preparedness, and mitigation.	3	Support

HB 262 Wildlife Management Area Amendments	Rep. Snider	Establishes wildlife management area purposes and how purposes and conditions for certain uses are to be implemented. In House Rules.	2	Support
HB 272 Water Efficient Landscaping Amendments	Rep. Owens	Allows the Division of Water Resources to award grants to local water districts or municipalities that pass appropriate water use ordinances to assist financially property owners to take water efficient landscaping efforts. In House Rules.	1	Support
SB 34 Water Infrastructure Funding Study	Sen. McCay	Directs the Department of Natural Resources create a working group to study the use of property tax revenue to fund water infrastructure, treatment, and delivery. In Senate Revenue & Taxation Standing Committee.	2	Support
SB 53 Groundwater Use Amendments	Sen. Vickers	Clarifies that the use of surface water to artificially recharge an aquifer is a beneficial use under certain conditions. On Senate 2 nd Reading Calendar.	1	Support if amended
HB 62 Hydrogen Amendments	Sen. Hinkins	Directs the Department of Natural Resources to establish a hydrogen advisory council within the Office of Energy Development which may advise on issues related to hydrogen.	3	Support
SB 75 Sand and Gravel Amendments	Sen. Sandall	This bill modifies the distribution of specified local property tax revenue.	3	Neutral
SB 76 Water Amendments	Sen. Sandall	Addresses coordination of planning related to water and land use, including requiring certain municipalities and counties to consult with state agencies and others in development of general plans. Appropriates \$890,000 for planning. On Senate 2 nd Reading Calendar.	1	Support

SB 92 Special License Plate Designation	Sen. Plumb	Creates the Great Salt Lake Preservation support special group license plate and directs revenue generated license plate to be deposited into the Sovereign Lands Management Account to enhance preservation of the Great Salt Lake watershed and ecosystem. On Senate 2 nd Reading Calendar.	2	Support
SB 107 Oil and Gas Severance Tax Amendments	Sen. Winterton	Creates the Impact Projects Restricted Account and directs the Permanent Community Impact Fund Board to award loans and grants from the restricted account for infrastructure projects intended to address the impacts of mineral resource development. Appropriates \$20 million one-time for construction of the Gate Canyon hydrocarbon highway. In Senate Rules.	1	Oppose
SB 112 Aquatic Invasive Species Amendments	Sen. Sandall	Requires the payment of a fee and display of an aquatic invasive species decal before launching or operating a vessel.	3	Support
SB 113 Local Agriculture Amendments	Sen. Sandall	Prohibits a municipality or a county from adopting or enforcing an ordinance or other regulation that prohibits or effectively prohibits the operation of a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) or the use of a working animal. In Senate NRAE Standing Committee.	1	Oppose
SB 118 Water Efficient Landscaping Amendments	Sen. Sandall	Establishes a financial incentive program for the conversion of lawns or turf to water efficient landscaping. In Senate Rules.	1	Support
SB 119 Per Capita Consumptive Use	Sen. McKell	Defines how per capita consumptive use is to be calculated, requires reporting, and regulates the publication or dissemination of consumptive water use numbers. In Senate Rules.	2	Support if amended

Important Dates

January 17 First day of session

January 27 Last day to request bills or appropriations (by noon)

Last day to approve bills for numbering (by noon)

February 24 Last day for the Executive Appropriations Committee to complete all budget decisions necessary to draft the final appropriations bills

February 28 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 1 Last day for legislators to prioritize bills and other programs with fiscal impact

March 1 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 3 Last day of session

March 23 Last day governor may sign or veto bills

May 2 Last day a veto-override session may begin

May 3 Normal effective date for bills

First day to file bills for the 2023 General Session

Executive Appropriations Committee

Rep. Val Peterson, Co-Chair

vpeterson@le.utah.gov

Sen. Jerry Stevenson, Co-Chair

jwstevenson@le.utah.gov

Sen. Don Ipson, Vice-Chair dipson@le.utah.gov
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Rep. Angela Romero angelaromero@le.utah.gov

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Sen. Keith Grover keithgrover@le.utah.gov
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Sen. Evan Vickers evickers@le.utah.gov
Sen. Stephanie Pitcher spitcher@le.utah.gov
Sen. Jen Plumb jplumb@le.utah.gov

Senate Office: (801) 538-1035 (messages)

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

Governor's Office: (801) 538-1000

Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee

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Rep. Stewart Barlow, Co-Chair sbarlow@le.utah.gov
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House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Standing Committee

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