



Winter 2018

LEGISLATIVE

NEWSLETTER

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**ONLY 3 WEEKS LEFT IN THE SESSION
COME JOIN
REPRESENTATIVE DUNNIGAN
ON THE HOUSE FLOOR**



**FLOOR TIME IS MONDAY -
FRIDAY**

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

*EMAIL US TO SCHEDULE A TIME
CWRIGHT@LE.UTAH.GOV*

Post-employment Restrictions

Utah is an employment-at-will state, where a worker can be fired or choose to leave employment for almost any reason. Under such circumstances, it makes little sense for employers to be permitted to compel their employees, especially those without access to proprietary information, to sign non-competes as a condition of employment and constrain their ability to work in the future.

Two years ago, Rep. Mike Schultz attempted to ban these post-employment restrictions in Utah and ultimately passed a bill that would limit their length to one year. This year, he chose to focus on an industry where abuses seem to be most pervasive – the media.

In a recent committee meeting, media employers stated that without non-competes, their employees would be considered simply “chattel” and “widgets” and many claimed credit for the talents and personalities of those who work for them. The bill sponsor has received over 75 documented stories of non-compete abuse from workers in media who have asked for anonymity for fear of retribution from their employers.

Some low-wage workers, even when let go from their contracts by the employer, have been held to the non-compete and forced to either move for work or work in a field outside of their training and expertise. This does nothing to create a stronger, more dynamic market and it places a significant, and unfair, burden on the worker.

Interestingly, while the print media has covered this legislation, the broadcast media has not, and we have heard that they have been strongly discouraged from mentioning it in their newscasts. Those in print seldom, if ever, use non-competes, while those in broadcast media use them extensively, from on-camera talent to producers to cameramen. This brings up a serious First Amendment concern in what is meant to be the marketplace of ideas, and is evidence of the importance of not stifling media voices and allowing the free-flow of workers in the field.

HB 241, *Post-employment Restrictions Amendments*, passed the Utah House of Representatives with 62 of 75 votes in favor, and now moves on to the Senate for consideration.



Suicide Prevention Task

Over the past seven years, the Utah Legislature has passed 15 bills addressing suicide and continue to make its prevention a priority. Lawmakers are currently considering several new measures to address this issue further, two of which have already passed the House. HB 41, *Mental Health Crisis Line Amendments*, creates a 24/7 state-wide crisis line staffed by specially trained first responders for mental and behavioral health issues. HB 42, *Medicaid Waiver for Mental Health Crisis Services*, seeks a Medicaid waiver for certain mental health crisis resources, including intervention by a mobile crisis outreach team.

On February 20, the Suicide Prevention Task Force, co-chaired by Rep. Steve Eliason and Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox, presented their recommendations to address the growing suicide crisis occurring in Utah. These recommendations include improving crisis response, reducing risk factors and enhancing protective measures.

A number of effective programs can be used and/or expanded to meet these goals, including mental health first aid training, peer-to-peer programs, public awareness messaging and the gun safety program, “Is Your Safety On,” which has distributed over 40,000 gun locks since 2017. They also noted that a crucial part of suicide prevention is ensuring children feel cared for and loved.

While there is no single solution to this complex issue, the task force believes these steps are taking us in the right direction to help raise public awareness and, ultimately, reduce the number of suicides in our state.

Those suffering from suicidal thoughts can call the National Suicide Hotline at 1-800-273-8255.



Life-saving Measures

The Legislature is considering a bill that would provide women with information that could save their lives. Mammogram results reveal whether a patient has deep dense tissue and if so, cancer detection results may be clouded and misleading. HB 258, *Women's Cancer Screening Notification Amendments*, would require facilities that perform screenings or diagnostic mammograms to inform patients with dense tissue of options for additional testing.

Often, women leave a physician or caregiver appointment without being-made aware of the potential need for additional screenings, then years later discover cancer that could have been detected and treated at an earlier stage. This legislation will ensure that women are provided information of all findings in their mammogram reports so they can make their own informed decisions. During a press conference on February 16, cancer survivors who had previously undergone routine mammograms but were never informed that they had dense breast tissue, spoke in favor of this bill.

Since 1991, Utah has maintained in statute the Mammography Quality Assurance Act (Utah Code Section 26-21a-203), but those protections have not been updated since. HB 258 has no financial burden on taxpayers.

This bill passed the House and is now in the Senate for consideration.

Canada

Rep. Dunnigan had the privilege of meeting with the Consulate General of Canada, Stephane Lessard. They discussed business relations between the two countries. HCR 8, Concurrent Resolution Recognizing Historic and Economic Relationships Between Canada, the United States, and Utah, recognizes the unique relationship between Utah and Canada. Utah's contributions to the trade relationship between the two countries are significant, amounting to a total \$3.3 billion. In 2016, Utah welcomed 348,400 visitors from Canada who spent an estimated \$110 million in the state.

The resolution also honors Canada's contributions as our partner in environmental, energy, economic, trade and joint military endeavors. Listen to the floor presentation [here](#).

Budget

Utah's economy continues to grow. Revised consensus revenue estimates were released on Wednesday, February 21. They project a total of \$508 million in new ongoing General Fund and Education Fund revenues, \$126 million higher than December 2017 estimates, and new one-time funds of \$184 million, \$83 million more than initially estimated. See additional budget numbers [here](#).

Senator Hatch

The Legislature passed a [concurrent resolution](#) honoring Senator Orrin Hatch for his service and designated February 21, 2018, as "Orrin G. Hatch Day." Senator Hatch was recently named the most effective Senator by a nonpartisan research organization - the Center for Effective Lawmaking. He has been an advocate of religious liberty, authoring the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and has helped improve access, mobility and quality of life for millions of Americans with his sponsorship of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act. Hatch holds the distinction of being the longest-serving Senator in Utah's history and he has done immeasurable good for our state and nation.

The Security Behind the Scenes

There are many incredible men and women frantically working to keep the Utah House of Representatives running smoothly throughout the short, seven-week session. One such group is known as the Green Coats. They are led by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Mike Mitchell. This group of men is responsible for security in our lobbies, galleries and committee rooms.



A Tribute to Utah's Fallen Soldiers

On February 16, the House of Representatives had the privilege of honoring Utah's fallen soldiers on the House floor as Rep. Justin Fawson, who served in the National Guard for almost 10 years, paid tribute to them and their families. Those who lost loved ones varied in age and background: a newlywed, a widow with two young boys and mothers holding pictures of their sons. The entire House body stood and observed a moment of silence to commemorate the soldiers and the sacrifice they and their families have made for our country.



Stay Connected

The Utah House of Representatives offers access to live and previous coverage of House Floor proceedings and committee hearings from the [legislative website](#). You can view current session, search the archive of past sessions, track bills, read proposed legislation and more at le.utah.gov.

Follow the Utah Reps on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay connected to what is happening, get a behind the scenes look and receive daily updates. You can also contact your representative at house.utah.gov.



Recap

Rep. Dunnigan meeting with representatives from The Haven, an addiction recovery treatment center, and talking about promoting treatment for substance abuse and ending the stigma attached to addiction.



On Tuesday night, Rep. Dunnigan held a Town Hall Meeting. We discussed important topics such as: medical marijuana, the legal blood alcohol limit, and Medicaid expansion.

Rep. Dunnigan speaking at the annual Rally for Mental Illness and Addiction Recovery, hosted by USARA and NAMI.



Bills Passed:

Representative Dunnigan's Sponsored Bill:

HB 411: Motor Vehicle Franchise Amendments

This week, this bill passed its standing committee and is now on its way to the House Floor. This bill prohibits a franchisor from offsetting the cost of a recall repair. Also, it requires a franchisor to give reasonable compensation to a franchise for an auto recall.

Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0411.html>

- HB0035S02: Municipal Alternate Voting Methods Pilot Project

Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0035.html>

HB0070: Costs for Aggravated Murder Offenses

Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0070.html>

- HB0098: Driving Under the Influence Revisions

Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0098.html>

- HB0101S02: Air Quality Emissions Testing Amendments

Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0101.html>

HB0114: Street-Legal ATV Amendments

Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0114.html>

- HB0141: Early Voting Amendments

Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0141.html>

- HB0148S01: Tax Revisions

Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0148.html>

- HB0196: Breastfeeding Protection Act

Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0196.html>

March

17

**St. Patrick's
Day**

March

11

**Daylight
Savings Time**

EVENTS

**Last
Day
Of
The
Session**

March

8

**Come Join
Rep. Dunnigan
on the
House Floor
for Debates**

**To Schedule a Time Email
us at**

cwright@le.utah.gov

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previous
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