



Winter 2018

LEGISLATIVE

NEWSLETTER

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**ONLY 1 WEEK LEFT IN THE SESSION
COME JOIN
REPRESENTATIVE DUNNIGAN
ON THE HOUSE FLOOR**



**FLOOR TIME IS
MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

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

Public Lands

House and Senate members, Republicans and Democrats alike, are all on the same page when it comes to calling on the federal government to honor the promises made to Utahns.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 allows the federal government to hold our public lands under federal control in perpetuity. This was a major policy shift. With nearly 70 percent of our land owned and controlled by the federal government, many communities, especially in rural areas, are deprived of tax revenue to fund schools and other essential government services. Recognizing the substantial burden placed on local governments and communities without the ability to levy property taxes, Congress established the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program as a substitute for that lost revenue.

"In lieu" is defined as a substitute of equal value; however, by any objective measure, federal PILT payments to Utah for federal lands are nowhere near the tax revenue the state and local communities would otherwise generate. PILT is often referred to as pennies in lieu of taxes. Two months of state property tax on less than 30 percent of our land is the equivalent of about twenty years of PILT payments on 67 percent of our land.

This tax break to the federal government is directly felt by Utah's children and communities to the tune of billions of dollars each year. It's time for the federal government to honor its promise.

[HCR 19](#), *Regarding the Impact of Federal Lands on the State Education System*, urges Congress to pass legislation requiring "PILT payments to be a fair and steady source of revenue."



Warning Label

The Utah Legislature is considering a bill, H.B. 399, *Opioid Abuse Prevention and Treatment Amendments*, that would require a warning label and informational pamphlet to be distributed when an opiate is prescribed.

The bill sponsor told a story of his son who had his wisdom teeth taken out and was prescribed opioids for pain. On the bottle, there was an upset stomach warning but nothing about the risks of dependence or addiction. In this case, the representative had his son take Tylenol, but patients may not always be aware of how dangerous opioids are, which can lead to tragedy. According to the Utah Department of Health, 80 percent of people who are addicted to heroin nationwide first became hooked on a prescription drug.

H.B 399 requires pharmacies to better educate the public on opioids. It would require warning labels to be affixed by the pharmacy that contain the following, "Caution: Opioid. Risk of overdose and addiction," as well as additional language approved by the Department of Health. This bill would also require a brochure to be displayed that educates patients on the risk of dependency and addiction, methods of storage and disposal, alternative options for pain management, the benefits of and how to obtain naloxone and resources for the patient or family if they believe the patient has a substance abuse disorder.

At the committee hearing, Dave Davis, the president and chief legal officer for the Utah Retail Merchants Association, expressed support for the bill. "We want to be part of the solution as pharmacies," he said.

HB 399 unanimously passed the House Health and Human Services Standing Committee on February 26. Track this bill [here](#).



Voice of the People/Opioids

Voice of the People

HJR 18, *Special Sessions of the Legislature*, is an amendment to the Utah Constitution that would allow the legislative body to call itself into special session under specific, very limited circumstances. These amendments would not take power away from the executive branch, nor remove the governor's ability to call a special session.

The resolution would give the legislative branch the ability to convene a session if two-thirds of all members of the House and Senate determine that it is necessary due to a persistent fiscal crisis, war, natural disaster or emergency in the affairs of the state. The special session could not exceed 10 days and would not permit lawmakers to appropriate more than 1 percent of total expenditures of the completed fiscal year.

Currently, 35 state legislatures are able to call themselves into a special session to do the work of the people. The House Rules Committee unanimously passed the joint resolution on February 26. If it passes the Legislature, a constitutional amendment would be on the ballot in November. Track this bill [here](#).

Opioids

For years, pharmaceutical manufacturers systematically engaged in deceptive marketing practices to advance the sale of prescription opioids, downplaying the negative and addictive effects of their use. This behavior occurred as the North American prescription opioid market grew to a value of \$12.4 billion at the cost, according to the Centers for Disease Control, of 91 American lives each day. Sixteen states have already filed suit against opioid manufacturers, seeking damages for the public cost of the crisis, and Cache, Davis, Salt Lake, Utah, Washington and Weber counties plan to do so as well. A joint resolution, HJR 12, which calls upon the Attorney General to immediately and publicly do the same, passed the House 72-0. Track the bill [here](#).



Congresswoman Mia Love

On February 22, Congresswoman Mia Love visited the House to speak to legislators about what is happening in Washington D.C. She spoke of the success of the Trump administration's tax reform and the positive impact it is having on businesses, individuals and America. She also encouraged Utah lawmakers to follow suit with the state revenue surplus this year by offering Utahns much-needed tax relief.

Mitt Romney

Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney visited the House on February 27. During the majority caucus meeting, he discussed his positions on a variety of topics.

The former governor called for more trade and innovation, saying it would be a win for Utah and the United States. He discussed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and some of its negative effects, especially in towns that lost major manufacturers as a result. He believes we need to renegotiate NAFTA and other trade agreements in ways that benefit the U.S.





Arts Day Museum Day on the Hill

Museums of all kinds came to the Capitol on February 27 to provide hands-on learning experiences. Some booths had live lizards and snakes, a variety of artifacts of art and one commemorated WWI.

The High School Art Show Capitol Day

High school students from across Utah showcased their art in the Gold Room at the Capitol. Utah is a proud promoter of the arts, and it was a day for students and teachers to show their support and appreciation of school art programs.



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 on the House Floor, presenting his bill HB 407: Support Animals Amendments.



Meeting with 8th graders from The McGillis School, an independent, non-profit education organization. We toured the Utah House of Representatives, attended a committee meeting, and discussed pressing issues in Utah such as the opioid crisis.

On Monday, Rep. Dunnigan presented SCR7, a concurrent resolution honoring firefighters and fire prevention efforts. Several members of the collective Fire Service in Utah were recognized for their selfless work.



Bills Passed:

Representative Dunnigan's Sponsored Bill:

HB 409 S. 1: Utah Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Amendments

Three years ago, there was a health insurance company that went insolvent in Utah. Now, three years later, there are 26 million in claims that have not been paid. Rep. Dunnigan's HB 409 will include HMO health plans in the state guaranty association. By so doing, if another HMO becomes insolvent in the future, the surviving healthy HMO insurance plans will step in to cover the claims. This bill ensures that people will have their claims paid in a timely manner, even if an insurance company becomes insolvent.

Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0409.html>

- *HB0058S01: Traffic Control Signs for Bicycles*
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0058.html>
- *HB0115S02: Abuse of Process and Demands Concerning Americans with Disabilities Act*
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0115.html>
- *HB0127S01: Controlled Substance Database Act Amendments*
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0127.html>
- *HB0209S01: Mental Health Protections for First Responders*
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0209.html>
- *HB0275S01: State Monuments Act Amendments*
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0275.html>
- *HB0278: Paid Family and Medical Leave Tax Credit*
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0278.html>
- *HB0287S03: Aggravated Kidnapping Amendments*
Link: <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HB0287.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**

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