



Interim 2018

LEGISLATIVE
NEWSLETTER

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Table of Contents

Page 2-3	Rep Dunnigan
Page 4	Medical Cannabis
Page 5	Site Visit
Page 6	Fire
Page 7	Water
Page 8	Winter Olympics
Page 9	Stay Connected
Page 10	Upcoming Events



Rep. Dunnigan



Rep Dunnigan's grandson Nixon checks out Mark Eaton at a discussion on healthcare.

Meeting with John Stockton to discuss Healthcare





Meeting with constituents at the nurse practitioner's dinner



Public Hearing on Proposition 2 legalization, Medical Cannabis



Medical Cannabis

An agreement has been reached by the legislature, governor, stakeholders who endorsed and opposed Proposition 2. The draft *Utah Medical Cannabis Act* bill is a result of the leadership of Speaker Greg Hughes bringing members of the House and Senate, stakeholders and advocacy groups to the table to find common ground on a complex issue.

In October, the governor and legislature announced they would meet during a special session to consider the draft medical cannabis bill whether Prop 2 passed or failed. The purpose of this draft legislation is to openly and with transparency, address concerns while still allowing medical cannabis to be safely distributed to patients with oversight from medical professionals at every step of the process while making sure public safety is not undermined.

Just like with any other legislation that is considered or passed by the Utah Legislature, a proposition can be adjusted.

During October interim, the Health and Human Services Interim Committee discussed the draft legislation. On Monday, November 26 the Health and Human Services Interim Committee once again discussed the *Utah Medical Cannabis Act*.

Highlights of the proposed agreement that is likely to be considered during a special session on December 3 compared to Prop 2 can be found [here](#).



Site Visit

Recently, many members of the Executive Appropriations Committee went on a day site visit to Duchesne County to see first-hand the areas impacted by the Dollar Ridge Fire this past summer, discuss water infrastructure and opportunities to increase energy development that could create jobs in rural areas of the state.

Lawmakers heard from officials from the Central Utah Water Conservancy, Duchesne County Sheriff's office, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL) and more throughout the areas they traveled.

The opportunity to see other areas of the state and speak with residents, business leaders and local representatives in their communities, has a significant impact especially for those who represent more urban areas whose constituents oftentimes face different challenges. The experience allows for a greater understanding of the unique issues that hopefully will lead to new innovative solutions.



Winter Olympics

Utah experienced one of the worst and most costly fires seasons in our state's history. The drought had an immense impact on the fire season this year. Eighty-seven homes were destroyed, most of those in Duchesne County during the Dollar Ridge Fire in July.

"We can go through an entire fire season and not lose a home," said Utah State Forester Brian Cottam.

Most other Western states, the focus is almost entirely on fire suppression with little to no resources dedicated to fire prevention. Utah is pioneering a new way to reduce fires before they begin.

The FFSL knew a new system had to be created to help avoid even more significant, expensive and dangerous fires from occurring by emphasizing proactive wildfire risk reduction.

The past three years, FFSL, legislators, Utah Fire Chiefs Association, firefighters, Utah League of Cities and Towns, Utah Association of Counties and staff from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget and Legislative Fiscal Analyst have been collaboratively constructing a plan referred to as Utah's Cooperative Fire Management System to reduce the risk of wildfires.

The plan includes the state assuming responsibility for suppression costs of large and extended wildland fires in exchange for the local government providing effective wildfire initial attack by local fire departments and implementing measurable prevention, preparedness and mitigation actions to reduce local fire risks.



Water

Utah's population is projected to double by 2065 and water is a scarce, precious commodity in our desert state. We need to continue to innovate, more efficient ways to conserve water. All Utahans must be part of the solution from agriculture use to personal use when developing methods to conserve water, especially as the state continues to grow.

It will cost an estimated \$18 billion to update Utah's current water infrastructure. Additionally, \$15 billion is needed for new infrastructure to accommodate the growing population. We can expect water legislation to be a topic of discussion during the 2019 General Session.



Winter Olympics

Utah is being considered to host another Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. On November 14, the Utah House of Representatives and Utah Senate held a special joint meeting to welcome the United States Olympic Committee who is in town visiting our 2002 venues. The message that echoed throughout the day – Utah is ready, willing and able to welcome the Winter Olympics back to our great state. Watch the meeting [here](#).



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 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 updates. You can also contact your representative at house.utah.gov.

Interim Highlights

Link to the OLRGC November Interim Highlights
– <https://le.utah.gov/interim/2018/pdf/00004671.pdf>

December

11

Health
Reform Task
Force @1:00
pm,

December

14

Criminal
Justice Task
Force @10 am

Upcoming
Events