



LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2019



REPRESENTATIVE JIM DUNNIGAN
DISTRICT 39



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

August Interim 1

Medicaid Updates 3

At the Captiol 5

Contact information 5

AUGUST INTERIM RECAP

HOA Water Bill Disputes

Constituents in Taylorsville and Kearns living in HOA's expressed concern that they were being overcharged for their water usage because of the tiered rates billing method.

I brought their concerns to the Business and Labor committee, where we heard from various water districts, and how they differ in billing methods. The goal is to charge HOA water users in a more equitable manner, so they are not overcharged.



Electronic Cigarettes

The Utah Alliance for Vaping- Free Kids and Students Against Electronic Vaping on youth use of electronic cigarettes in Utah gave a presentation to the committee.

The committee approved a committee bill draft, "Electronic Cigarettes and Other Nicotine Products," which levies a tax on electronic cigarettes and other nontherapeutic nicotine products.

The health risks associated with the use of electronic cigarettes is becoming more widely researched, discussed, and recognized. Click [here](#) for an article about confirmed links to e-cigarettes with illness in Utah.

Tax Restructuring Task Force

The Committee received a presentation from staff outlining several policy options suggested by the public for consideration to address the state's revenue imbalance challenge.

These options included restoring the full state sales tax rate on some or all food purchases and creating tax relief through mechanisms such as a grocery tax credit, an earned income tax credit (EITC), a Social Security benefits income tax credit, a militaryveteran's retirement benefits income tax credit, and an income tax rate reduction.



Driver License Permit Requirements

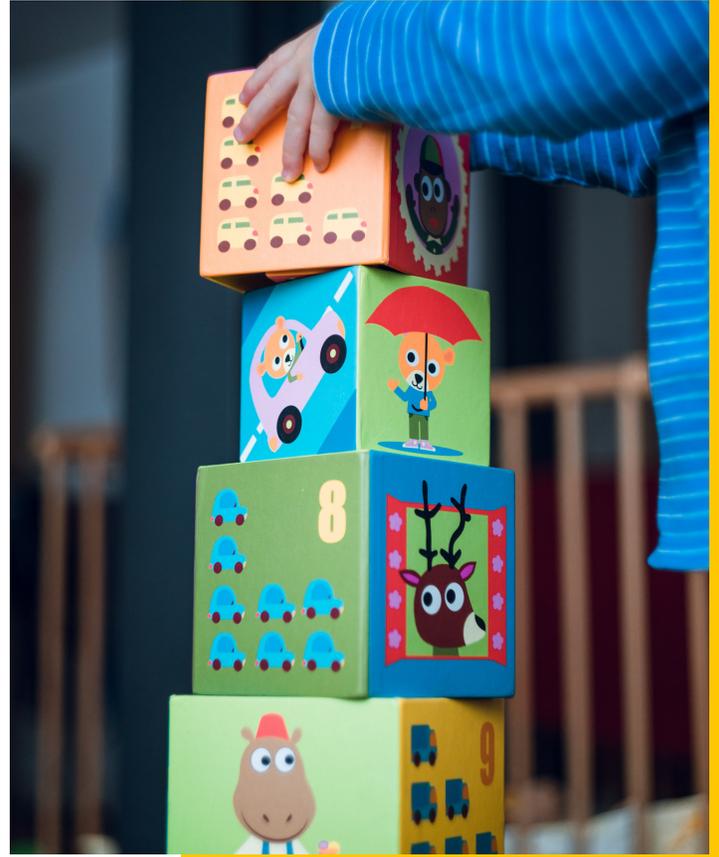
A Driver License Division policy detailing written exam requirements for learner permit holders was discussed, and whether the policy should be adopted as a Driver License Division administrative rule due to its impact on the public.

The committee voted to request that the Driver License Division prepare, as an administrative rule, written exam requirements for learner permit holders. It that the division conduct a review to determine whether other policies may need to be placed in administrative rule due to their potential impact on the public.

Childcare Shortage

The committee received a presentation from Voices for Utah Children regarding the correlation between the lack of quality, affordable child care options and the state's workforces shortage. Also received a presentation from the Utah Child Care Cooperative regarding possible solutions to the child care shortage.

The committee also discussed draft legislation, "Workforce Development Incentive Amendments," which would permit the Governor's Office of Economic Development to consider whether an employer will provide working parent benefits when awarding certain economic development incentives.



MEDICAID EXPANSION

As you may remember, during the session I co-sponsored SB-96, legislation that ensured medical coverage to every adult in the coverage gap. The goal of this legislation was to provide coverage for those in the greatest need in a fiscally responsible manner.

The bill relied heavily on receiving waivers from the federal government to pay for the expansion. While the bill was being written I went to great lengths, including voting against the bill in committee, to ensure there was a backup plan written into the bill if the waivers were not granted.

(Continued below)

In hind-site, it was a critical move to include a backup plan in the bill, as some of the Federal waivers were not granted. The backup plan stipulated that Proposition 3, as it was voted on, be put in place, ensuring coverage for everyone up to 138% of poverty.

Since April of this year, 35,000 Utahns have enrolled in Medicaid, and another 41,000 have received heavily subsidized coverage through the Federal Market Place.

If you or anyone you know is interested in enrolling in Medicaid, click **here** for more information.



Cache County Medical Cannabis and Medicaid Expansion Town Hall

It was a pleasure to attend the Medical Cannabis and Medicaid Expansion Town Hall, and meet with Karina Andelin Brown. Karina was one of the original sponsors of Prop 3. She told me this shows that a Prop 3 sponsor and an SB 96 sponsor can be friends! On her Facebook page she said:

"I appreciate Representative Jim Dunnigan listening to my concerns about the Medicaid expansion process, his respect for my role as a Prop 3 sponsor, and his curiosity as to how I got involved.

I celebrate that thousands of adults are now eligible for Medicaid and will continue to advocate for expansion up to 138% of the poverty level as designated in Proposition 3." -Karina Andelin Brown

At the Capitol

Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy Meeting

I have met with international visitors through the Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy (UCCD) before on numerous occasions. However, this meeting stands out because of the variety of countries the guests were visiting from- 22 countries throughout four continents. I visited with them for an hour, and answered their questions on how our form of government encourages transparency and accountability for elected officials.



Contact Information

As always, please feel free to contact me. I am able to meet at the capitol, or at my office in Taylorsville. The address is 3105 W 5400 S Suite 6, Taylorsville, UT, 84129.

I can be reached by phone at 801-840-1800, or by email at jdunniganele.utah.gov.