UTAH STATE LEGISLATURE WEBSITE

Features Frequently Used

http://le.utah.gov

Current and Historical Legislative Information: Review to find information quickly.

The Home Page



The Utah State Legislature website has been nationally recognized since its inception in 1998 for 1) information access, 2) easy navigation, and 3) simplicity in design. To keep up to date with ever changing technology in addition to the technological savvy of citizens and how information is provided, we are constantly reevaluating our site and adding new features. Some helpful features are listed below.

The blue box at the top of the home page allows you to easily search **by keyword** for:

- <u>bills</u> (including session years);
- <u>Utah Code sections</u> (enter keyword, click on Site, then select Utah Code); and
- <u>all content</u> (including committee materials) posted on the entire site from 1990-current.

Frequently used information marked by three large tabs below the blue search box:

- Interim or Session with Featured items, Scheduled activities, and Now (live activity);
- <u>Audio Video</u> with all streaming, live and archived, for sessions and committees; and
- <u>Calendar</u> in week or month views with color coded proceedings and links to all the information.

Bill Tracking is generated by RSS and allows you to keep up with the status of any bill.

Bill pages feature sponsor photos with links to biographical information, links to all versions of each bill, links to similar bills, and an option to print in pdf. At the top of the bill pages, the tab labeled "Status" provides votes in committee and on the floor and a WebWatch subscription, and the "Streaming" tab provides live streaming.

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Calendar

You can link to committee audio, agendas, or committee page from each committee posted to the calendar. You can view one week or view the entire month, using the color key for past, current and future meetings. The Significant Session Dates (upper left corner in small print) is also available from the calendar page.

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Footer

Displayed on the bottom of each page are ways for you to:

- <u>find legislators</u> who represent you;
- <u>find Senate and House</u> information;
- <u>link to the mobile site;</u>
- link to other relevant information; and
- provide feedback.

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Looking for a bill or bill request?

Use the search feature at the top of most every page on our site to enter key words, a bill number, or sponsor's name to find a bill or bill request defaulting in the current year with a pull down menu to search bills back to 1997.

Click on "Bills" (left column, home page) to search for a bill by number or key word that will display results back to 1990. This is helpful when you're not quite sure which session the bill was introduced or passed.

From the Bills page you can also search "Bills/Bill Requests" by year, subject, sponsor, committee, and introduced or passed bills. In this feature, display results include years 1997-forward.

Click on "Bills" (left column) then "Passed Bills" for a list of all bills passed in any session (1998-forward) displaying sortable columns (click on any column heading to arrange chapter numbers, effective dates, sponsors, vetoed bills, and governor's actions, and links to detailed bill information).

Looking for a codified law?

Use the keyword search feature at the top of most any page on the legislative site to enter a citation (i.e., 36-12-12), hit Enter on your keyboard, and the section is displayed.

Or click on "*Utah Code/Constitution*" (left column) and use "Keyword Search" or "Title/Chapter/Section." Entire titles, chapters, and sections are downloadable, including future titles with effective dates.

Looking for a legislator's votes?

On each bill document page under the "Status" tab, click on the link(s) in the "Vote" column to see the House or Senate Journal page that lists a legislator's yea or nay vote and a legislator's name if absent for a vote.

Want to track bills during session?

Mouse over "Bills" (left column) and click on "Tracking Service." Options include RSS and code section tracking.

Click on "Reading Calendars," a real time tool that provides detailed information about each bill as it is debated in the House and/or Senate Chamber, including video and customizable settings.

Looking for committee meeting information?

See the **Calendar** and **Audio** • **Video** tabs or "Committees" (left column). For historical information (1990– forward) click on "Legislative Histories" (left column) then on the "Interim Committee Histories."

Looking for floor debates and committee hearings?

Click on the **Audio** • **Video** tab and select the desired link (by date or committee) to watch or listen to live or archived streaming of committee meetings and floor debates for 2012–forward.

Archived House and Senate floor debates 1990–2011 are found under "Legislative Histories" (left column).

Live and archived audio of committee hearings are accessible from each committee page, **Audio** • **Video** tab on the home page, or Calendar tab. Archived audio is available from July 2005–forward for all committee meetings.

Customize your own reports?

Create your own customized report of any interim committee (2009-forward) by clicking on "Customized Report" at the top of the selected committee page. Options such as committee, year, study item, committee overview, study item background, meeting actions, and recommended legislation are available.

You may also customize a report for bills. Click on "Bills" (left column), and select "Customize a Printable Report" and content and formatting options are available for bills1997-forward.

Need to research legislative history or intent?

All legislative histories 1990-forward are online. Click on "Legislative Histories." A trip to the Research Center of the Utah State Archives and Utah State History may be necessary for histories prior to1990 although all the *Laws of Utah* back to 1851 are available online via the Utah State Library site. The "Legislative History Resources" and "How to Research" links are helpful in determining where to begin and how to find historical information.

Need a list of sections affected for a legislative session?

Under "Bills" select "Passed Bills" and select any year 1998-ongoing to view the "Sections Affected" document. The document lists all sections of the *Utah Code* that have been enacted, amended, repealed, and renumbered, excepting sections affected by Sunset dates.

Looking for a legislative publication?

See "Publications" (left column). Better yet, search by keyword in the search box at the top of most any of our website pages. This makes searching for any legislative publication, whether it be an audit, budget report, presentation, committee materials, or newsletter, etc., extremely easy to find.

Looking for the basics?

Click on "Legislative Guide" (left column). Pages are broken into several categories providing basic information about the legislature. A more comprehensive description of the legislature, executive, and judicial branches of government is found in *Utah State Government* — A *Citizen's Guide*, produced by the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel and available in Legislative Printing.

Need more assistance or legislative information?

Contact the webmaster, Shelley Day, at 801.326.1600.

What's coming?

Stay tuned. A team of legislative staff, with each office represented, is constantly updating our website.

Updated 5 January 2015

