MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WORKFORCE SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 16, 2025**|**1:15 p.m.**|**120 Senate Building

Members Present:
Sen. Ann Millner, Chair
Rep. Jon Hawkins, Chair
Sen. Karen Kwan
Sen. Jerry W Stevenson
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Paul A. Cutler
Rep. Jake Fitisemanu
Rep. Leah Hansen
Rep. Sahara Hayes
Rep. Colin W. Jack
Rep. Carol S. Moss

Rep. David Shallenberger
Rep. Troy Shelley
Rep. Jordan D. Teuscher

Members Absent:
Sen. Michael K. McKell
Rep. James A. Dunnigan
Rep. Doug Fiefia

Staff Present:
Sivan Nizan, Policy Analyst
Rhonda Bailey, Associate General Counsel
Samantha Merrell, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Millner called the meeting to order at 1:29 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Jack moved to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2025, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 7.

Yeas - 10	Nays - 0	Absent - 7
Rep. P. Cutler		Rep. J. Dunnigan
Rep. L. Hansen		Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. S. Hayes		Rep. J. Fitisemanu
Rep. C. Jack		Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. K. Kwan		Sen. M. McKell
Sen. A. Millner		Sen. J. Stevenson
Rep. C. Moss		Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. D. Shallenberger		
Rep. T. Shelley		
Rep. J. Teuscher		

2. Blockchain, Digital Innovation, and Artificial Intelligence

[2 - Presentation, Data Governance and Digital Identity (Office of Data Privacy)](#)

[2 - The Current State of Data Governance in Utah (Gary R. Herbert Institute for Public Policy, UVU)](#)

[2 - US State Data Governance Law Tracker (Office of Data Privacy)](#)

[2 - Office of Data Privacy Program Framework (Office of Data Privacy)](#)

Chris Bramwell, Chief Privacy Officer, Office of Data Privacy, presented on data governance statutes, the duties of the Utah Office of Data Privacy, and challenges and opportunities regarding data privacy in Utah.

Chris Bramwell responded to a question from the committee and continued presenting.

Chris Bramwell responded to questions and comments from the committee.

Chris Bramwell presented on state endorsed digital identity and the identity framework established by S.B. 260, Individual Digital Identity Amendments, 2025 General Session.

Chris Bramwell responded to questions and comments from the committee.

Dennis Porter, CEO and Co-Founder, Satoshi Action Fund, spoke on digital asset policy and the digital asset space, including bitcoin and service platforms.

Dennis Porter continued presenting on national policy trends regarding digital assets and encouraged the state to put nontangible assets in reserves.

Dennis Porter responded to questions from the committee.

[2 - Blockchain Technology Current Trends (Utah Blockchain Coalition)](#)

Amelia Powers Gardner, Co-Founder, Utah Blockchain Coalition, presented on current trends in blockchain technology.

Amelia Powers Gardner responded to questions from the committee.

3. Audit: Department of Workforce Services

[3 - Presentation, A Systemic Audit of the Department of Workforce Services Focusing on Client Success (OLAG)](#)

[3 - A Systemic Audit of the Department of Workforce Services (Office of the Legislative Auditor General (OLAG))](#)

Leah Blevins, Audit Supervisor, Office of the Legislative Auditor General (OLAG), and August Lehman, Audit Supervisor, OLAG, presented on the recently completed Department of Workforce Services Audit and on areas for department improvement.

Kevin Burt, Deputy Director, Department of Workforce Services (DWS), responded to the audit.

4. Workforce Services

[4 - Workforce Development Programs (DWS)](#)

Greg Paras, Deputy Director, DWS, and Liz Carver, Director, Workforce Development Division, DWS, presented an overview of DWS and the Workforce Development Division.

Liz Carver responded to questions and comments from the committee and continued presenting.

Greg Paras presented on challenges for employers relating to Utah's workforce.

Rep. Hawkins assumed the chair.

5. Required Report: Office of Homeless Services

[5 - Utah Homeless System Outcomes Dashboard Report (Office of Homeless Services, DWS)](#)

[5 - Homelessness Data Dashboard Link (Office of Homeless Services, DWS)](#)

Wayne Niederhauser, State of Homelessness Coordinator, reported on the Utah Homeless System Outcomes Dashboard.

Wayne Niederhauser responded to questions from the committee.

6. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Hayes moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 8.

Yeas - 9	Nays - 0	Absent - 8
Rep. P. Cutler		Rep. J. Dunnigan
Rep. L. Hansen		Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. J. Hawkins		Rep. J. Fitisemanu
Rep. S. Hayes		Sen. M. McKell
Rep. C. Jack		Sen. A. Millner
Sen. K. Kwan		Rep. D. Shallenberger
Rep. C. Moss		Sen. J. Stevenson
Rep. T. Shelley		Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. J. Teuscher		

Chair Hawkins adjourned the meeting at 3:34 p.m.