



DRAFT MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WORKFORCE SERVICES

INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 15, 2025 | 1:15 p.m. | 120 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Ann Millner, Chair
Rep. Jon Hawkins, Chair
Sen. Karen Kwan
Sen. Michael K. McKell
Sen. Jerry W Stevenson
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Paul A. Cutler
Rep. James A. Dunnigan
Rep. Doug Fiefia
Rep. Jake Fitisemanu
Rep. Leah Hansen

Rep. Sahara Hayes
Rep. Colin W. Jack
Rep. Carol S. Moss
Rep. David Shallenberger
Rep. Troy Shelley

Members Absent:

Rep. Jordan D. Teuscher

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.

Chair Millner called the meeting to order at 1:27pm.

1. Workforce Services: Talent Ready Utah

[2 - Talent Ready Utah Update \(Utah System of Higher Education\)](#)

Vic Hockett, Associate Commissioner, Talent Ready Utah, and Jimmy McDonough, Director of Higher Education Initiatives, Talent Ready Utah, presented updates on partnerships and initiatives that address workforce pain points.

Vic Hockett responded to questions from the committee.

Chair Hawkins assumed the chair.

2. Committee Business

MOTION: Rep. Jack moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2025, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 9.

Yeas - 8

Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. J. Fitisemanu
Rep. L. Hansen
Rep. J. Hawkins
Rep. C. Jack
Sen. A. Millner
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. T. Shelley

Nays - 0

Absent - 9

Rep. J. Dunnigan
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. K. Kwan
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. D. Shallenberger
Sen. J. Stevenson
Rep. J. Teuscher
Sen. E. Vickers

3. Rural Film Incentive

[3 - Utah Film Commission Overview \(Office of Tourism\)](#)



Virginia Pearce, Director, Utah Film Commission, presented information about the Rural Film Incentive and highlighted case studies that demonstrate film's impact on Utah's economy.

Virginia Pearce responded to questions from the committee.

4. Tourism

[4 - Tourism Works for Utah: Investing in Our State's Future \(Utah Office of Tourism\)](#)

Natalie Randall, Managing Director, Utah Office of Tourism, introduced the Utah Office of Tourism.

Celina Sinclair, Executive Director, Utah Tourism Industry Association, presented information related to H.B. 456 Transient Room Tax Amendments.

Natalie Randall continued the presentation by discussing the state of travel, visitor spending, and stewardship messaging.

Shayne Wittwer, CEO, Wittwer Hospitality, shared hotel occupancy information from Southern Utah and discussed the economic impact of tourism in Utah

Natalie Randall, Shayne Wittwer, and Dave Williams, Associate Managing Director, Utah Office of Tourism, responded to questions from the committee.

5. Report: Housing Capacity Study

[5 - Utah Resource and Infrastructure Housing Capacity Analysis \(Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity; Envision Utah\)](#)

Jason Brown, CEO, Envision Utah, and Kamron Dalton, Managing Director of Operations, Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, presented findings on future housing demand, available market types, and policy levers to the committee.

Jason Brown and Kamron Dalton responded to questions from the committee.

6. Housing Recommendations

[6 - Housing Reorganization Presentation \(Rep. Roberts\)](#)

Sen. Lincoln Fillmore and Rep. Cal Roberts presented housing reorganization recommendations to the committee.

Jefferson Moss, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, discussed how a housing reorganization would realign entities and foster transparency.

Sen. Fillmore, Rep. Roberts, and Jefferson Moss responded to questions from the committee.

7. Report: Service Programs for At-Risk Youth in Utah

[7 - Educational Achievement and Workforce Development: A Review of Community-Based Approaches Report Back on 2025 Legislative Study Request \(Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute\)](#)

[7 - Report: Educational Achievement and Workforce Development: A Review of Community Based Approaches \(Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute\)](#)



Sen. Fillmore introduced results from a 2025 Legislative Study Request.

Andrea Brandley, Senior Education Analyst, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, presented efforts to improve economic mobility and community-based approaches to support at-risk youth.

Sen. Fillmore and Andrea Brandley responded to questions from the committee.

MOTION: Rep. Hayes moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 7.

Yeas - 10

Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. J. Dunnigan
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. J. Fitisemanu
Rep. L. Hansen
Rep. J. Hawkins
Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. K. Kwan
Sen. A. Millner
Rep. C. Moss

Nays - 0

Absent - 7

Rep. C. Jack
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. D. Shallenberger
Rep. T. Shelley
Sen. J. Stevenson
Rep. J. Teuscher
Sen. E. Vickers

Chair Hawkins adjourned the meeting at 4:00pm.