



LEGISLATURE

MINUTES

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 | 8:00 a.m. | 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Ronald M. Winterton, Chair
Rep. Jefferson S. Burton, Chair
Sen. Brady Brammer
Sen. Calvin R. Musselman
Sen. Jen Plumb
Rep. Paul A. Cutler
Rep. Doug Fiefia
Rep. Anthony E. Loubet
Rep. Matt MacPherson
Rep. Grant Amjad Miller
Rep. Michael J. Petersen
Rep. Lisa Shepherd

Rep. Andrew Stoddard
Rep. Mark A. Strong
Rep. Jason E. Thompson

Members Absent:

Sen. Michael K. McKell
Rep. Angela Romero

Staff Present:

Kirsi Jarvis, Policy Analyst
Michael Cipriano, Associate General Counsel
Thomas R. Vaughn, Managing Associate
General Counsel
Tracey Fredman, 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 Burton called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Cutler moved to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2025, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 9.

Yeas - 8

Rep. J. Burton
Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. M. MacPherson
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. L. Shepherd
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 9

Sen. B. Brammer
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. A. Loubet
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. G. Miller
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. J. Thompson

[1 - Facial Recognition Technology Crime Report](#)

Megan Bolin briefed the committee on the required Facial Recognition Technology Crime Report, which was received from the Department of Public Safety's Statewide Information and Analysis Center.

2. Draft Legislation, "Write-In Votes Amendments"

[2 - 2026 General Session draft legislation, Write in Votes Amendments \(V9\) \(M.Cipriano\)](#)

Michael Cipriano reviewed the provisions of 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Write-in Votes Amendments," which would modify provisions related to write-in votes.

Committee discussion followed.

Cambria Cantrell, Elections Coordinator, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, and Brian McKenzie, Davis County Clerk, responded to questions from the committee.

Aaron Davidson, Utah County Clerk, commented on the legislation.

Public comments were heard from:

Marilyn Momeny; and

Maryann Christensen, Executive Director, Utah Legislative Watch.

MOTION: Rep. Petersen moved to amend 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Write-in Votes Amendments," by deleting lines 19 through 20, and 325 through 326. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 8.

Yeas - 9

Rep. J. Burton
Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. G. Miller
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard

Nays - 0

Absent - 8

Sen. B. Brammer
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. A. Loubet
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. J. Thompson
Sen. R. Winterton

MOTION: Rep. Petersen moved to further amend the draft legislation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. MacPherson moved to go to the next agenda item. The substitute motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 7.

Yeas - 10

Rep. J. Burton
Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. G. Miller
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard

Nays - 0

Absent - 7

Sen. B. Brammer
Rep. A. Loubet
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. J. Thompson
Sen. R. Winterton

3. Draft Legislation, "Signature Gathering and Verification Amendments"

[3 - Signature Gathering and Verification Amendments \(10\) \(M. Cipriano\)](#)

Michael Cipriano reviewed the provisions of 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Signature Gathering and Verification Amendments," which would modify requirements for petitions.

Public comments were heard from:

Ryan Cowley, Director of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor;

Katharine Biele, League of Women Voters;

Marilyn Momeny, citizen; and

Maryann Christensen, Executive Director, Utah Legislative Watch.

MOTION: Rep. Shepherd moved to recommend 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Signature Gathering and Verification Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 6.

Yeas - 11

Rep. J. Burton
Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. G. Miller
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong

Nays - 0

Absent - 6

Sen. B. Brammer
Rep. A. Loubet
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. J. Thompson
Sen. R. Winterton

4. Draft Legislation, "Signature Gathering and Verification Modifications"

[4 - 2026 General Session draft legislation, Signature Gathering and Verification Modifications \(V15\) \(M.Cipriano\)](#)

Michael Cipriano reviewed the provisions of 2026 General Session, "Signature Gathering and Verification Modifications," which would amend the electronic signature gathering and verification process.

Public comments were heard from:

Brian McKenzie, speaking on behalf of himself;

Maryann Christensen, Executive Director, Utah Legislative Watch;

Aaron Davidson, Utah County Clerk; and

Marilyn Momeny, citizen.

MOTION: Rep. Miller moved to go to the next agenda item.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Fiefia moved to recommend 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Signature Gathering and Verification Modifications," as a committee bill. The substitute motion failed with a vote of 7 - 7 - 3.

Yeas - 7

Rep. J. Burton
Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. A. Loubet
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. L. Shepherd
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 7

Sen. B. Brammer
Rep. G. Miller
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong

Absent - 3

Sen. M. McKell
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. J. Thompson

Chair Burton moved to the next agenda item without a vote on the motion from Rep. Miller.

5. Draft Legislation, "Community Rehabilitation Program Amendments"

[5 - 2026 General Session draft legislation, Community Rehabilitation Program Amendments \(V3\)\(R.Frost\)](#)[5 - Bill Presentation, Community Rehabilitation Program Amendments](#)

Kirsi Jarvis reviewed the provisions of 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Community Rehabilitation Program Amendments," which would extend the sunset date of the Purchasing from Persons with Disabilities Advisory Board by 10 years and require the board to make an annual report to the Government Operations Interim Committee.

MOTION: Rep. MacPherson moved to recommend 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Community Rehabilitation Program Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 14

Sen. B. Brammer
Rep. J. Burton
Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. A. Loubet
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. G. Miller
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0Absent - 3

Sen. M. McKell
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. J. Thompson

6. Draft Legislation, "Governmental Immunity Amendments"[6 - 2026 General Session draft legislation, Governmental Immunity Amendments \(V6\) \(M.Cipriano\)](#)

Rep. Snider discussed the provisions of 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Governmental Immunity Amendments," which would amend the Governmental Immunity Act of Utah to address the question of immunity from lawsuits when government entities or their employees are providing emergency medical services.

Committee discussion followed.

Public comments were heard from:

Clint Smith, Fire Chief, Draper City, on behalf of Utah State Fire Chiefs Association;

Jack Tidrow, President, Professional Firefighters of Utah;

Eric Clark, General Council, Utah Association of Counties;

Jared Tingey, Legal Director, Utah League of Cities and Towns; and

Brad Bishop, President, Utah Chiefs Association.

MOTION: Sen. Musselman moved to recommend 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Government Immunity Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 14

Sen. B. Brammer
Rep. J. Burton
Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. A. Loubet
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. G. Miller
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. J. Thompson
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0Absent - 3

Rep. D. Fiefia
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. A. Romero

7. Draft Legislation, "Political Signs Amendments"[7 - 2026 General Session draft legislation, Political Signs Amendments \(27\) \(M.Cipriano\)](#)

Rep. Tuescher reviewed the provisions of 2026 General Session draft legislation, Political Signs Amendments," which would amend provisions related to political signs.

Public comments were heard from Justin Lee, Deputy Director, League of Cities and Towns.

MOTION: Rep. Cutler moved to recommend 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Political Signs Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 1 - 3.

Yeas - 13

Rep. J. Burton
Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. A. Loubet
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. G. Miller
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 1

Sen. B. Brammer

Absent - 3

Sen. M. McKell
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. J. Thompson

8. Draft Legislation, "Investment Zone Amendments"[8 - 2026 General Session draft legislation, Investment Zones Amendments \(V6\) \(R.Bailey\)](#)

Sen. Harper reviewed the provisions of 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Investment Zones Amendments," which would enact, renumber, amend, and repeal provisions of certain investment zones within the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity.

[8 - 2026 General Session draft legislation, Investment Zone Amendments, with amendment \(V6\) \(R. Bailey\)](#)

MOTION: Rep. MacPherson moved to amend 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Investment Zone Amendments," by striking, in the long title, lines 20 through 21, and striking in the bill lines 5405 through 5417. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 12

Sen. B. Brammer
Rep. J. Burton
Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. A. Loubet
Rep. M. MacPherson
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0Absent - 5

Sen. M. McKell
Rep. G. Miller
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. J. Thompson

MOTION: Rep. MacPherson moved to recommend as amended 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Investment Zone Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 1 - 6.

Yeas - 10

Rep. J. Burton
Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. A. Loubet
Rep. M. MacPherson
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 1

Sen. B. Brammer

Absent - 6

Sen. M. McKell
Rep. G. Miller
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. J. Thompson

9. Legislative audit review, "Piute and Wayne County Election Processes"[9 -A Performance Audit of Piute and Wayne County Election Processes](#)[9 - Presentation, Performance Audit of Piute and Wayne County Election Processes](#)

Jesse Martinson, Audit Manager, and Jake Dinsdale, Senior Audit Supervisor, Office of the Legislative Auditor General, reviewed the findings of "A Performance Audit of Piute and Wayne County Election Processes."

Kali Gleave, Clerk/Auditor, Piute County, and Felicia Snow, Clerk/Auditor, Wayne County, responded to the audit's findings and the current implementation of the audit's recommendation

10. Other Items/Adjourn

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

Yeas - 8

Rep. J. Burton
Rep. D. Fiefia
Rep. M. MacPherson
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Petersen
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. M. Strong
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0Absent - 9

Sen. B. Brammer
Rep. P. Cutler
Rep. A. Loubet
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. G. Miller
Sen. J. Plumb
Rep. A. Romero
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. J. Thompson

Chair Burton adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

