



# DRAFT MINUTES

## HOUSE BUSINESS, LABOR, AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 | 4:00 p.m. | 445 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Rep. A. Cory Maloy, Chair  
Rep. Jason B. Kyle, Vice Chair  
Rep. Melissa G. Ballard  
Rep. Jefferson S. Burton  
Rep. James A. Dunnigan  
Rep. Ken Ivory  
Rep. Ashlee Matthews  
Rep. Hoang Nguyen  
Rep. Thomas W. Peterson  
Rep. Jake Sawyer

Rep. Jordan D. Teuscher  
Rep. Norman K Thurston  
Rep. Stephen L. Whyte  
Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox

**Members Absent:**

Rep. Calvin Roberts  
Speaker Mike Schultz

**Staff Present:**

Rohnin Randles, Policy Analyst  
Alyssa Castor, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

Cochair Kyle called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Sawyer moved to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2026, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 8.

Yeas - 8

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. K. Ivory  
Rep. J. Kyle  
Rep. A. Maloy  
Rep. H. Nguyen  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. J. Sawyer  
Rep. S. Whyte

Nays - 0

Absent - 8

Rep. J. Burton  
Rep. J. Dunnigan  
Rep. A. Matthews  
Rep. C. Roberts  
Rep. M. Schultz  
Rep. J. Teuscher  
Rep. N. Thurston  
Rep. R. Wilcox

**1. H.B. 294 Employer Verification Amendments(Auxier, T.)**

Rep. Tiara Auxier presented the bill and answered questions from the committee.

Public comment was heard from:

Casey Hill, Utah State Director, National Federation of Independent Business, who also answered questions from the committee;

Robert Babcock, attorney, Babcock Scott and Babcock; and

Craig Madsen, business owner, Lehi.

**MOTION:** Rep. Thurston moved to set a time to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. The motion failed with a vote of 6 - 6 - 4.

Yeas - 6

Rep. J. Burton  
Rep. K. Ivory  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. J. Sawyer  
Rep. N. Thurston  
Rep. S. Whyte

Nays - 6

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. J. Dunnigan  
Rep. J. Kyle  
Rep. A. Maloy  
Rep. H. Nguyen  
Rep. J. Teuscher

Absent - 4

Rep. A. Matthews  
Rep. C. Roberts  
Rep. M. Schultz  
Rep. R. Wilcox

**MOTION:** Rep. Nguyen moved to hold H.B. 294.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Rep. Peterson moved to amend H.B. 294 with Amendment #1. The substitute motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Amendment 1

1. Line 6 through 12:

6  
7 This Bill:  
8 →amends provisions related to the Private Employer Verification Act, impacting a private  
9 employer who employs {50}100 or more employees;  
10 →cites criminal penalties that may be applicable to the use of fraudulent identification  
11 documentation or another person's identification documentation for purposes of  
12 obtaining employment; and

2. Line 23 through 28:

23 Section . is amended to read:  
24 Verification required for new hires.  
25 (1) A private employer who employs [~~150~~]{50}100 or more employees on or after [~~May 4, 2022~~]  
26 July 1, 2027, may not hire a new employee on or after [~~May 4, 2022~~]July 1, 2027, unless  
27 the private employer:  
28 (a) is registered with a status verification system to verify the federal legal working

Yeas - 12

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. J. Burton  
Rep. J. Dunnigan  
Rep. K. Ivory  
Rep. J. Kyle  
Rep. A. Maloy  
Rep. H. Nguyen  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. J. Sawyer  
Rep. J. Teuscher  
Rep. N. Thurston  
Rep. S. Whyte

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Rep. A. Matthews  
Rep. C. Roberts  
Rep. M. Schultz  
Rep. R. Wilcox

**MOTION:** Rep. Ballard moved to hold H.B. 294.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Rep. Peterson moved to pass H.B. 294 out favorably. The substitute motion passed with a vote of 10 - 3 - 3.

Yeas - 10

Rep. J. Burton  
Rep. J. Dunnigan  
Rep. K. Ivory  
Rep. J. Kyle  
Rep. A. Maloy  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. J. Sawyer  
Rep. J. Teuscher  
Rep. N. Thurston  
Rep. S. Whyte

Nays - 3

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. A. Matthews  
Rep. H. Nguyen

Absent - 3

Rep. C. Roberts  
Rep. M. Schultz  
Rep. R. Wilcox

**2. H.B. 516 Landlord Communication Amendments(Shallenberger, D.)**

Rep. David Shallenberger and David Todd, attorney, Titan Legal, presented the bill and answered questions from the committee.

Public comment was heard from:

Jake Anderegg, lobbyist, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials;

Steve Erickson, lobbyist, Crossroads Urban Center;

Justin Allen, Government Affairs Director, Rental Housing Association;

Tara Rollins, Executive Director, Utah Housing Coalition; and

Angela Kraniski, lobbyist, Utah Safe and Stable Rentals Project.

**MOTION:** Rep. Dunnigan moved to hold H.B. 516. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 1 - 4.

Yeas - 11

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. J. Burton  
Rep. J. Dunnigan  
Rep. K. Ivory  
Rep. J. Kyle  
Rep. A. Maloy  
Rep. A. Matthews  
Rep. H. Nguyen  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. J. Sawyer  
Rep. S. Whyte

Nays - 1

Rep. N. Thurston

Absent - 4

Rep. C. Roberts  
Rep. M. Schultz  
Rep. J. Teuscher  
Rep. R. Wilcox

**3. H.B. 304 Cash Payments Amendments(Chevrier, K.)**

Rep. Kristen Chevrier and Marlo Oaks, State Treasurer, Office of State Treasurer, presented the bill and answered questions from the committee.

Public comment was heard from:

Jake Anderegg;

Casey Hill;

Vito Leone, business owner, Bountiful, who also answered questions from the committee;

Catherine Austin Fitts, resident, Florida;

Jennifer Marcum, resident, Davis County;

Adelaide, Girl Scout, Davis County;

Rose, Girl Scout, Davis County;

Brooklyn, Girl Scout, Davis County;

Kristin Richey, Utah Eagle Forum;

**MOTION:** Rep. Peterson moved to move to next agenda item. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 12

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. J. Burton  
Rep. J. Dunnigan  
Rep. K. Ivory  
Rep. J. Kyle  
Rep. A. Maloy  
Rep. A. Matthews  
Rep. H. Nguyen  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. N. Thurston  
Rep. S. Whyte  
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Rep. C. Roberts  
Rep. J. Sawyer  
Rep. M. Schultz  
Rep. J. Teuscher

**4. H.B. 280 Third Party Litigation Funding Amendments(*Dunnigan, J.*)**

Rep. Dunnigan and Ryan Andrus, general counsel, WCF Insurance, presented the bill.

Public comment was heard from:

Frank Pignanelli, lobbyist, American Finance Legal Association;

Rachel Sykes, Vice President, Utah Association for Justice; and

Dai Wai Chin Feman, United States Chapter Chair, International Legal Finance Association.

**MOTION:** Rep. Matthews moved to replace H.B. 280 with 2nd Substitute H.B. 280. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 13

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. J. Burton  
Rep. J. Dunnigan  
Rep. K. Ivory  
Rep. J. Kyle  
Rep. A. Maloy  
Rep. A. Matthews  
Rep. H. Nguyen  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. J. Sawyer  
Rep. N. Thurston  
Rep. S. Whyte  
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. C. Roberts  
Rep. M. Schultz  
Rep. J. Teuscher

**MOTION:** Rep. Matthews moved to pass 2nd Substitute H.B. 280 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 13

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. J. Burton  
Rep. J. Dunnigan  
Rep. K. Ivory  
Rep. J. Kyle  
Rep. A. Maloy  
Rep. A. Matthews  
Rep. H. Nguyen  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. J. Sawyer  
Rep. N. Thurston  
Rep. S. Whyte  
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. C. Roberts  
Rep. M. Schultz  
Rep. J. Teuscher

**5. H.B. 176 H.B. 176 Trust Business Modifications(Loubet, A.)**

Rep. Anthony Loubet and Jeff Cardon, attorney, Pleasant Grove, presented the bill and answered questions from the committee.

Public comment was heard from:

Jon Croasmun, Senior Vice President and Corporate Trust Manager, Bank of Utah, who also answered questions from the committee;

Dylan Schmutz, Senior Vice President and Trust Manager, Bank of Utah; and

Howard Headlee, President, Utah Bankers Association, who also answered questions from the committee.

**MOTION:** Chair Maloy moved to move to next agenda item.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Rep. Matthews moved to replace H.B. 176 with 1st Substitute H.B. 176. The substitute motion passed with a vote of 10 - 3 - 3.

Yeas - 10

Rep. J. Burton  
Rep. K. Ivory  
Rep. J. Kyle  
Rep. A. Maloy  
Rep. A. Matthews  
Rep. H. Nguyen  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. N. Thurston  
Rep. S. Whyte  
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 3

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. J. Dunnigan  
Rep. J. Sawyer

Absent - 3

Rep. C. Roberts  
Rep. M. Schultz  
Rep. J. Teuscher

**MOTION:** Rep. Thurston moved to pass 1st Substitute H.B. 176 out favorably.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Rep. Ballard moved to adjourn. The substitute motion failed with a vote of 3 - 10 - 3.

Yeas - 3

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. J. Dunnigan  
Rep. A. Maloy

Nays - 10

Rep. J. Burton  
Rep. K. Ivory  
Rep. J. Kyle  
Rep. A. Matthews  
Rep. H. Nguyen  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. J. Sawyer  
Rep. N. Thurston  
Rep. S. Whyte  
Rep. R. Wilcox

Absent - 3

Rep. C. Roberts  
Rep. M. Schultz  
Rep. J. Teuscher

Rep. Thurston's motion to pass 1st Substitute H.B. 176 out favorably passed with a vote of 8 - 5 - 3.

Yeas - 8

Rep. J. Burton  
Rep. K. Ivory  
Rep. J. Kyle  
Rep. A. Matthews  
Rep. H. Nguyen  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. J. Sawyer  
Rep. N. Thurston

Nays - 5

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. J. Dunnigan  
Rep. A. Maloy  
Rep. S. Whyte  
Rep. R. Wilcox

Absent - 3

Rep. C. Roberts  
Rep. M. Schultz  
Rep. J. Teuscher

**MOTION:** Rep. Peterson moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 13

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. J. Burton  
Rep. J. Dunnigan  
Rep. K. Ivory  
Rep. J. Kyle  
Rep. A. Maloy  
Rep. A. Matthews  
Rep. H. Nguyen  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Rep. J. Sawyer  
Rep. N. Thurston  
Rep. S. Whyte  
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. C. Roberts  
Rep. M. Schultz  
Rep. J. Teuscher



Cochair Kyle adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

NOTE: S.B. 0160, 01st Substitute H.B. 0244, 01st Substitute H.B. 0059 were not discussed in the meeting.