



UTAH STATE

LEGISLATURE

# DRAFT MINUTES

## HOUSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 19, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. | 30 House Building

**Members Present:**

Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox, Chair  
Rep. Mark A. Strong, Vice Chair  
Rep. Melissa G. Ballard  
Rep. Matthew H. Gwynn  
Rep. Katy Hall  
Rep. Sandra Hollins  
Rep. Trevor Lee  
Rep. Lisa Shepherd

Rep. Andrew Stoddard  
Rep. Stephen L. Whyte

**Members Absent:**

Rep. Val L. Peterson

**Staff Present:**

Lacey Johnson, Policy Analyst  
An Bradshaw, Committee Secretary

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).

Chair Strong called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Whyte moved to approve the minutes for the February 17, 2026 meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 7

Rep. M. Gwynn  
Rep. K. Hall  
Rep. T. Lee  
Rep. L. Shepherd  
Rep. A. Stoddard  
Rep. M. Strong  
Rep. S. Whyte

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. S. Hollins  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. R. Wilcox

**1. H.B. 495 Capital Felony Case Amendments(Pierucci, C.)**

[HB495 Handout](#)

Rep. Candice Pierucci presented the bill with the assistance of William Hains, Assistant Solicitor General, Criminal Appeals Division, Office of the Attorney General (OAG).

Chair Wilcox assumed the chair.

Mark Moffat, Utah Defense Lawyers Association, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Richard Mauro, Executive Director, Salt Lake Legal Defender Association (SLLDA), spoke in opposition to the bill.

Scott Burns, Piute County Attorney and Executive Director, Utah Sheriffs Association, spoke in support of the bill.

Erin Bigler, Assistant Director of Forensic Social Work, SLLDA, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Carl Hollan, Executive Director, Statewide Association of Prosecutors and Public Attorneys (SWAP), spoke in support of the bill.

Andrew Riggie, Policy Advocate, Disability Law Center, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Eric Zuckerman, Assistant Federal Public Defender, spoke in opposition to the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Hall moved to replace HB0495 with HB0495S01. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 8

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. K. Hall  
Rep. S. Hollins  
Rep. T. Lee  
Rep. L. Shepherd  
Rep. M. Strong  
Rep. S. Whyte  
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. M. Gwynn  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. A. Stoddard

**MOTION:** Rep. Shepherd moved to pass HB0495S01 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 2 - 1.

Yeas - 8

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. M. Gwynn  
Rep. K. Hall  
Rep. T. Lee  
Rep. L. Shepherd  
Rep. M. Strong  
Rep. S. Whyte  
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 2

Rep. S. Hollins  
Rep. A. Stoddard

Absent - 1

Rep. V. Peterson

**2. H.B. 539 Criminal Justice Modifications(*MacPherson, M.*)**

Rep. MacPherson presented the bill with the assistance of William Hains and Ryan Robinson, Policy Director, SWAP.

Marlesse Jones, Director, Domestic Violence Coalition, spoke in support of the bill.

Brett Robinson, Senior Policy Advisor, Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office, spoke in support of the bill.

Erin Jemison, Director of Public Policy, Utah Domestic Violence Coalition, spoke in support of the bill.

Steve Burton, Director, Utah Defense Attorney Association, spoke to the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Stoddard moved to replace HB0539 with HB0539S02. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 9

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. M. Gwynn  
Rep. K. Hall  
Rep. S. Hollins  
Rep. L. Shepherd  
Rep. A. Stoddard  
Rep. M. Strong  
Rep. S. Whyte  
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Rep. T. Lee  
Rep. V. Peterson

**MOTION:** Rep. Stoddard moved to pass HB0539S02 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 9

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. M. Gwynn  
Rep. K. Hall  
Rep. S. Hollins  
Rep. L. Shepherd  
Rep. A. Stoddard  
Rep. M. Strong  
Rep. S. Whyte  
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Rep. T. Lee  
Rep. V. Peterson

Vice Chair Strong resumed the chair.

**3. 1st Sub. H.B. 402 EMS Controlled Substance Licensing Amendments(Wilcox, R.)**

Rep. Wilcox presented the bill with the assistance of Rob Ayers, Division Chief, Emergency Medical Services, Unified Fire Authority.

Clint Smith, Draper City Fire Chief and representing the Utah State Fire Chiefs Association, spoke in support of the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Ballard moved to pass HB0402S01 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 8

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. M. Gwynn  
Rep. K. Hall  
Rep. S. Hollins  
Rep. L. Shepherd  
Rep. A. Stoddard  
Rep. M. Strong  
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. T. Lee  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. S. Whyte

Chair Wilcox assumed the chair.

**MOTION:** Rep. Shepherd moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 8

Rep. M. Ballard  
Rep. M. Gwynn  
Rep. K. Hall  
Rep. S. Hollins  
Rep. L. Shepherd  
Rep. A. Stoddard  
Rep. M. Strong  
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. T. Lee  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. S. Whyte

Chair Wilcox adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

NOTE: H.J.R. 016, H.B. 0295, H.B. 0327 were not discussed in the meeting.