



MINUTES

HOUSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

STANDING COMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 | 4:00 p.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.

Chair Strong called the meeting to order at 4:29 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Whyte moved to approve the minutes for the February 13, 2026 meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 8

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

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

1. H.B. 346 Sexual Abuse of a Child Amendments(Cutler, P.)

Sen. Cutler presented the bill with the assistance of Carl Hollan, Statewide Association of Prosecutors and Public Attorneys.

Marlesse Jones, Director, Victim Services Commission, spoke in support of the bill.

Rachel Christensen Thomas, Davis County Independent American Party, spoke in support of the bill.

Jayden Laursen, resident, spoke in support of the bill.

Seth Stewart, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Hall moved to pass HB0346 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 8

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

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

MOTION:

Rep. Stoddard moved to place HB0346 on the Consent Calendar. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 8

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

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

2. 2nd Sub. H.B. 88 Public Assistance Amendments(Lee, T.)

[H.B. 88 handout](#)

[H.B. 88 graphs](#)

Rep. Lee presented the bill, and provided handouts.

Neil Rickard, Child Nutrition Advocate, Utahns Against Hunger, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Ronald Mortensen, resident, spoke in support of the bill.

Madaline Chilcutt, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Shannon Macinnes, resident, spoke in support of the bill.

Sarah Schear, Utah American Academy of Pediatricians, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Chad Saunders, resident, spoke in support of the bill.

Megan Neuf, Children's Health Policy Analyst, Voices for Utah Children, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Teena Horlacher, resident, spoke in support of the bill.

Patrick Fleming, Chair, Utah Behavioral Health Commission and speaking on behalf of the Domestic Violence Committee, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Merrill Kunz, resident, spoke in support of the bill.

Cooper Cordova, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

John Taylor, resident, spoke in support of the bill.

Lora Young, Reverend, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Jayden Laursen spoke in support of the bill.

Greydon Burgoyne, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Ron Naves, resident, spoke in support of the bill.

Herbert Ley, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Riley Beesley, Vice Chair, Utah Federation of College Republicans, spoke in support of the bill.

Emmie Gardner, CEO, Holy Cross Ministries, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Kelsey Hamilton, Turning Point Action, spoke in support of the bill.

Paul Dayton, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Jessica Miller, CIO, Community Action Services and Food Bank, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Joleen Groberg, Box Elder Community Pantry, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Yvette Romero Coronado, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Maryann Christensen, Executive Director, Utah Legislative Watch, spoke in support of the bill.

Marilyn Momeny, resident, spoke in support of the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Stoddard moved to hold HB0088S02. The motion failed with a vote of 3 - 7 - 1.

Yeas - 3
Rep. M. Ballard
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. T. Lee

Nays - 7
Rep. M. Gwynn
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. S. Whyte
Rep. R. Wilcox

Absent - 1
Rep. V. Peterson

MOTION: Rep. Shepherd moved to replace HB0088S02 with HB0088S03.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Ballard moved to replace HB0088S02 with HB0088S05. The substitute motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 10

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 1

Rep. V. Peterson

MOTION: Rep. Shepherd moved to pass HB0088S05 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 3 - 1.

Yeas - 7

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

Nays - 3

Rep. M. Ballard
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. A. Stoddard

Absent - 1

Rep. V. Peterson

3. 1st Sub. H.B. 188 Juvenile Justice Amendments(*Peck, N.*)

[HB188 Key Highlights](#)

[HB 188 Handout](#)

Rep. Peck presented the bill with the assistance of David McKechnie, staff member, Tooele High School, and Carlos Jimenez, resident.

Chad Saunders spoke in support of the bill.

Rachel Christensen Thomas spoke in support of the bill.

Phyllis Kimpel, resident, spoke in support of the bill.

Liz Klc, Criminal Justice Policy Director, Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, spoke to the bill.

John Taylor spoke in support of the bill.

Susan Edwards, Public Engagement, Canyon School District, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Kiara Poyner, student, spoke in support of the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Wilcox moved to replace HB0188S01 with HB0188S03. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 3.



Yeas - 8

Rep. M. Ballard
Rep. M. Gwynn
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. T. Lee
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. S. Whyte

MOTION:

Rep. Wilcox moved to pass HB0188S03 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 2 - 2.

Yeas - 7

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

Nays - 2

Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. A. Stoddard

Absent - 2

Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. S. Whyte

MOTION:

Rep. Wilcox moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 1 - 2.

Yeas - 8

Rep. M. Ballard
Rep. M. Gwynn
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. T. Lee
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 1

Rep. L. Shepherd

Absent - 2

Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. S. Whyte

Chair Strong adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.