



DRAFT MINUTES

HOUSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

Monday, March 2, 2026 | 8:10 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.

Chair Strong called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Whyte moved to approve the minutes for the February 26, 2026 meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 8

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. M. Gwynn
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. V. Peterson

1. H.B. 596 Homelessness Amendments(*Eliason, S.*)

[HB 596 Handout](#)

Rep. Eliason presented the bill, and provided a handout.

Molly Wheeler, Deputy Director, Utah League of Cities and Towns, answered questions from the committee.

Molly Wheeler spoke to the bill.

Pat Fleming, Policy Review Committee Chair, Utah Behavioral Commission, spoke in favor of the bill.

Shari Wood, Utah Homeless Services Board, spoke to the bill.

Laurie Hopkins, Executive Director, Shelter the Homeless, spoke in favor of the bill.

Sarah Nielson, Director of Communications, The Road Home, spoke in favor of the bill.

Shawn Guzman, Government Affairs Director, City of St. George, spoke in favor of the bill.

Nick Coleman, Interim State Homelessness Coordinator, spoke to the bill.

Devon Kurtz, Public Safety Policy Director, Cicero Institute, spoke in favor of the bill.

Damon Talbot, Operations Director, Unsheltered Utah, spoke in favor of the bill.

Merinda Cutler, Executive Director, Unsheltered Utah, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Ballard moved to replace HB0596 with HB0596S01. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 7

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

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

MOTION: Rep. Ballard moved to amend HB0596S01 with Amendment #1. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 3.

Amendment 1

1. Line 993 through 999:

993 participating local government's tax revenue distribution amount under
994 Subsection (2)(a)(i) for a previous fiscal year.
995 (B)"Annual local contribution" means, for a fiscal year beginning on or after July
996 1, 2027, the lesser of ~~{}~~\$275,000 ~~{}~~\$500,000 or an amount equal to ~~{}~~2.55%~~{}~~15%
997 of the participating local government's tax revenue distribution amount under
998 Subsection (2)(a)(i) for the previous fiscal year.
999 (ii) "Participating local government" means a county or municipality, as defined in

Yeas - 8

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. T. Lee
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. A. Stoddard

MOTION: Rep. Ballard moved to pass HB0596S01 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. M. Strong
Rep. S. Whyte
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. T. Lee
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. A. Stoddard

2. 1st Sub. S.B. 226 Fatal Motor Vehicle Accident Amendments(Millner, A.)

Sen. Millner presented the bill with the assistance of Dana Zinz, victim advocate.

Carl Hollan, Executive Director, Statewide Association of Prosecutors and Public Attorneys, spoke in favor of the bill.

Beau Mason, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Whyte moved to replace SB0226S01 with SB0226S02. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 8

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

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

MOTION: Rep. Whyte moved to pass SB0226S02 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 7

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Rep. M. Ballard
Rep. T. Lee
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. R. Wilcox

3. 1st Sub. S.B. 128 Public Alert Amendments(*Plumb, J.*)

Sen. Plumb presented the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Hollins moved to pass SB0226S02 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 6

Rep. M. Gwynn
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. T. Lee
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. S. Whyte

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Rep. M. Ballard
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. R. Wilcox

4. H.B. 588 Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives Amendments(*Romero, A.*)

Rep. Romero presented the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Stoddard moved to pass HB0588 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 5.



Yeas - 6

Rep. M. Gwynn
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. T. Lee
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. S. Whyte

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Rep. M. Ballard
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. R. Wilcox

MOTION:

Rep. Stoddard moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 6

Rep. M. Gwynn
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. T. Lee
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. S. Whyte

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Rep. M. Ballard
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. R. Wilcox

Chair Strong adjourned the meeting at 9:14 a.m.