



DRAFT MINUTES

SENATE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS STANDING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 | 4:00 p.m. | 220 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Ronald M. Winterton, Chair
Sen. Nate Blouin
Sen. Emily Buss
Sen. Michael K. McKell
Sen. Jen Plumb

Sen. Scott D. Sandall
Sen. Evan J. Vickers

Staff Present:

Devon Schechinger, Policy Analyst
Zoe Adams, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Winterton called the meeting to order at 04:00 PM.

MOTION: Sen. Buss moved to approve the minutes from March 2, 2026. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6

Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. E. Buss
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. E. Vickers
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 1

Sen. J. Plumb

1. 3rd Sub. H.B. 479 Election Code Modifications(*Burton, J.*)

Rep. Jefferson Burton presented the bill.

[HB 479 Handout Final.pdf](#)

[HB 479.pdf](#)

MOTION: Sen. McKell moved to go to the next item on the agenda. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6

Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. E. Buss
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. E. Vickers
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 1

Sen. J. Plumb

2. 3rd Sub. H.B. 176 Trust Business Modifications(*Loubet, A.*)

Rep. Anthony Loubet presented the bill.

Jeff Cardon, attorney, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Vickers moved to pass HB0176S03 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6
Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. E. Buss
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. E. Vickers
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 1
Sen. M. McKell

3. 3rd Sub. H.B. 457 County Growth Planning and Annexation Amendments(*Dunnigan, J.*)

Rep. James Dunnigan presented the bill with the assistance of Stephanie Russell, Economic Development Director, & Weber County.

[H.B. 457.pdf](#)

Jared Tingey, Legal Director, Utah League of Cities and Towns, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. McKell moved to replace HB0457S03 with HB0457S05. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6
Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. E. Buss
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 1
Sen. E. Vickers

MOTION: Sen. Sandall moved to pass HB0457S05 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6
Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. E. Buss
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 1
Sen. E. Vickers

4. 1st Sub. H.B. 409 Legislator Leave Amendments(*Okerlund, C.*)

Rep. Clinton Okerlund presented the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Sandall moved to replace HB0409S01 with HB0409S02. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6
Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. E. Buss
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 1
Sen. E. Vickers

Delane England, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

MOTION: Sen. McKell moved to pass HB0409S02 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6

Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. E. Buss
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 1

Sen. E. Vickers

5. 1st Sub. H.B. 328 Water Usage Modifications(*Okerlund, C.*)

Rep. Clinton Okerlund presented the bill with the assistance of Joel Williams, Director, Utah Division of Water Resources.

[H.B. 328.pdf](#)

Justin Lee, Deputy Director, Utah League of Cities and Towns.

Jill Flygare, Chief Operating Officer, Utah Water Waste, spoke in favor of the bill.

Ken Robinson, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Scott Paxman, General Manager/CEO, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, spoke in favor of the bill.

Kelly Good, Director, Community Engagement, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, spoke in favor of the bill.

Kirk Harris, Turf Farmer, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Easton Harris, Producer, Turf and Landscape Materials, spoke to the bill.

Hannah Freeze, Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner, spoke in favor to the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Buss moved to pass HB0328S01 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 1 - 1.

Yeas - 5

Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. E. Buss
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. E. Vickers
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 1

Sen. S. Sandall

Absent - 1

Sen. J. Plumb

6. 3rd Sub. H.B. 361 Elections Provisions Amendments(*Shepherd, L.*)

Rep. Lisa Shepherd presented the bill with the assistance of Ryan Cowley, Director of Elections, Lt. Governor's Office.

[H.B. 361 4th Sub.pdf](#)

Ricky Hatch, Weber County Clerk/Auditor, County Clerks Association, spoke in favor of the bill.

Seth Stewart, resident, spoke to the bill.

Delane England, Utah Eagle Forum, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Vickers moved to replace HB0361S03 with HB0361S04. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6
Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. E. Buss
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. E. Vickers
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 1
Sen. M. McKell

MOTION: Sen. Vickers moved to pass HB0361S04 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6
Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. E. Buss
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. E. Vickers
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 1
Sen. M. McKell

7. 1st Sub. H.B. 513 Attorney General Funding Amendments(Peterson, V.)

Rep. Val Peterson presented the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Vickers moved to pass HB0513S01 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6
Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. E. Buss
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. E. Vickers
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 1
Sen. M. McKell

8. 2nd Sub. H.B. 545 Budgetary Modifications(Peterson, V.)

Rep. Val Peterson presented the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Vickers moved to replace HB0545S02 with HB0545S03. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6
Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. E. Buss
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. E. Vickers
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 1
Sen. M. McKell

Casey Hill, Lobbyist, Energy Solutions, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Sandall moved to pass HB0545S03 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 1 - 1.

Yeas - 5
Sen. E. Buss
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. E. Vickers
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 1
Sen. N. Blouin

Absent - 1
Sen. M. McKell

9. 2nd Sub. H.B. 439 Water Planning Amendments(Shallenberger, D.)

Rep. David Shallenberger presented the bill with the assistance of Blake Bingham, Deputy State Engineer, Deputy Director, Utah Division of Water Rights.

MOTION: Sen. Sandall moved to amend HB0439S02 with Amendment #1. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Amendment 1

1. Line 565 through 585:

565 Section 6. Coordinating H.B. 439 with S.B. 284.
566 If H.B. 439, Water Planning Amendments, and S.B. 284, Local Land Use Modifications,
567 both pass and become law, the Legislature intends that, on May 6, 2026:(1) Subsection
{10-20-912(8)}10-20-912(6) enacted in S.B. 284 be amended to read:"{(8)(a)}(6)(a) A municipality may not impose
an exaction for a water interest if: (i) the culinary water authority's existing available water interests exceed the
water
571 interests needed to meet the reasonable future water requirement of the public; or (ii) the municipality or
the municipality's culinary water authority does not have a
573 written plan in accordance with Subsection {(8)(b)}(6)(b).(b) Beginning on January 1, 2028, a municipality
shall determine the municipality's water
575 interests needed to meet the reasonable future water requirement of the public by completing a
576 written plan described in Subsection 73-1-4(2)(f)."; and(2) Subsection {17-79-813(8)}17-79-813(6) enacted
in S.B. 284 be amended to read:"{(8)(a)}(6)(a) A county may not impose an exaction for a water interest if: (i) the
culinary water authority's existing available water interests exceed the water
580 interests needed to meet the reasonable future water requirement of the public; or (ii) the county or the
county's culinary water authority does not have a written plan in
582 accordance with Subsection {(8)(b)}(6)(b).(b) Beginning on January 1, 2028, a county shall determine the
county's water interests
584 needed to meet the reasonable future water requirement of the public by completing a written
585 plan described in Subsection 73-1-4(2)(f).".

Yeas - 6
Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. E. Buss
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. E. Vickers
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 1
Sen. M. McKell

Justin Lee, Deputy Director, Utah League of Cities and Towns, spoke to the bill.

Pamela Juliano, resident, spoke to the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Vickers moved to pass HB0439S02 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.



Yeas - 6

Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. E. Buss
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. E. Vickers
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 1

Sen. M. McKell

MOTION: Sen. Blouin moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6

Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. E. Buss
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. E. Vickers
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 1

Sen. M. McKell

Chair Winterton adjourned the meeting at 5:21 PM.

NOTE: 02nd Substitute H.B. 0501 was not discussed in the meeting.