

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEES -- JUNE 2016

| LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE | |
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| Bill Title/Subject Matter: | Department of Public Safety – Issues and Updates |
| Legislator(s) – Sponsor: | |
| Interested Parties: | Commissioner Keith Squires Col. Danny Fuhr |
| Code Reference: | |
| <p>Description: Commissioner Squires presented information on long-term issues for the Department of Public Safety.</p> <p>--The top priority is the trooper pay plan and future appropriations. Troopers were 14% below the average wage of comparable law enforcement agencies; even with this year’s appropriation they remain approximately 8% below.</p> <p>--Training is another priority for the troopers and law enforcement officers. The POST budget needs to increase to keep up with training demands and to upgrade equipment. This past year the uninsured motorist fund was used to keep POST at its current level.</p> <p>--Highway fatalities are a big concern for the department.</p> <p>--Another issue for DPS is the State Bureau of Investigations (SBI) being able to support other agencies working with the refugee population. One SBI agent has been assigned to work on these programs, but additional agents are needed.</p> <p>--Driver license and BCI will both need to address fee increases in the coming year.</p> <p><i>[Action: No action taken, information only.]</i></p> | |
| Bill Title/Subject Matter: | Death Penalty Cost and Process |
| Legislator(s) – Sponsor: | |
| Interested Parties: | Ron Gordon, Executive Director, CCJJ Andrew Peterson, Utah Attorney General’s Office |
| Code Reference: | |
| <p>Description: Discussion on the application of the death penalty and differences between Utah and other states; in addition information was presented on the cost of implementing the death penalty verses a sentence of life without parole.</p> <p><i>[Action: No action taken, information only.]</i></p> | |
| Bill Title/Subject Matter: | Felony Assault Amendments |
| Legislator(s): | Rep. Lowry Snow |
| Interested Parties: | |
| Code Reference: | |
| <p>Description: Rep. Snow provided information on a bill from the 2016 G.S. on creating the offense of criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation as a class A misdemeanor and creating the offense of strangulation as a third degree felony.</p> <p><i>[Action: No action taken, information only.]</i></p> | |
| JUDICIARY | |
| Bill Title/Subject Matter: | Sunset Review: Crime Victim Reparations and Assistance Board |
| Legislator(s) – Sponsor: | |
| Interested Parties: | Gary Scheller, Director, Utah Office of Crime Victims |
| Code Reference: | UCA 63M-7-504 |
| <p>Description: Gary Scheller provided an overview to the committee on the Crime Victim Reparations and Assistance Board statute that is due to sunset on July 1, 2017. The Committee will make a recommendation back to the Legislature later this year.</p> | |

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| | <i>[Action: No action take, information only.]</i> | |
| Bill Title/Subject Matter: | Justice Courts | |
| Legislator(s) –Sponsor: | Doreen Weyland, CCJJ Rick Schwermer, Administrative Office of the Courts | |
| Interested Parties: | | |
| Code Reference: | | |
| | <p>Description: Doreen Weyland provided information on the performance measures being collected on the JRI implementation. She indicated the first year annual report will be provided to the Interim Committee in either October or November.</p> <p>Rick Schwermer provided information on the justice courts and caseloads. Discussion continued on the drug court structures in Utah and the risk/need of participants.</p> <p><i>[Action: No action taken, information only.]</i></p> | |
| Bill Title/Subject Matter: | Offenses Against the Person Amendments | |
| Legislator(s) –Sponsor: | Rep. V. Lowry Snow | |
| Interested Parties: | | |
| Code Reference: | | |
| | <p>Description: Rep. Snow provided information on a bill from the 2016 G.S. on creating the offense of criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation as a class A misdemeanor and creating the offense of strangulation as a third degree felony.</p> <p><i>[Action: No action take, information only.]</i></p> | |
| GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS | | |
| Bill Title/Subject Matter: | Report on Unmanned Aircraft | |
| Legislator(s) –Sponsor: | | |
| Interested Parties: | Kim Gibb, Legislative Liaison, Department of Public Safety | |
| Code Reference: | | |
| | <p>Description: Ms. Gibb presented the UAV report to the Committee. The report contains only four entries, two for media purposes and two for the Hilldale flooding. All entries were recorded by the Department of Emergency Management. The Department has applied for a certificate of authorization from the FAA, but resumed flying UAVs in September under the hobbyist exemption, which requires them to stay under the 400 foot elevation. Only two agencies own UAVs, DEM and UHP.</p> <p><i>[Action: No action taken, information only.]</i></p> | |