

Feb. 2022

UTAH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Weekly Newsletter of RRJ Consulting
Utah's Leading Lobbying Firm



WEEK 3 OF THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Another week is in the books. We are almost half way through the session and things are beginning to pick up. We're following many important pieces of legislation and working hard to represent you and your needs.

TAX CUT UPDATE

S.B. 59 Tax Amendments made its way over to the House this week and saw some changes. While the state income tax rate would still be reduced from 4.95% to 4.85%, resulting in an overall tax cut of \$160 million for Utahns, the House added in an additional credit. The substitute bill contains an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and expands the social security income tax credit which will allow more Utahns to keep more of their hard earned money.

TRANSIT

The Legislature is considering a bill, H.B. 322, to increase access to and availability of transit and multimodal transportation. Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) and Utah Transit Authority (UTA) would work together to determine how to best utilize state funds to benefit all Utahns. Transit is of key importance to maintain our quality of life while our state population continues to grow.

OLYMPICS

20 years ago, Salt Lake City hosted the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. Utah has a long-lasting Olympic history. In fact, this year, 1/3 of Team USA has Utah ties and the University of Utah is sending 35 Olympians to the games – more than any university in the world. We're excited to witness the excitement this year and wish all the athletes the best of luck.

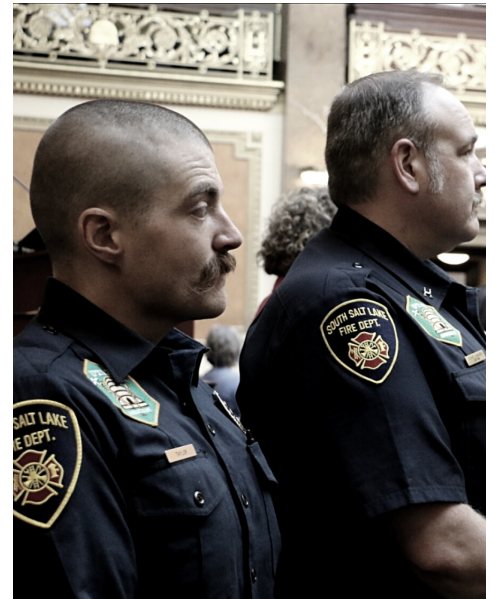


ARPA FUNDS FOR WATER PROJECTS

Water has been top of mind for many. Lawmakers, water experts, and stakeholders have been meeting to determine how best to spend Utah's federal ARPA funds. This week, the group presented to a legislative committee and recommended using the funds for:

- Secondary water metering
- Drinking water infrastructure
- Agriculture water optimization
- Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake preservation

These projects will not only address immediate needs, but will also benefit the state for years to come.



APPROPRIATIONS MEETINGS

This week was the final week of appropriations meetings. In total, the Legislature appropriated \$22.2 billion from all sources for Fiscal Year 2023 in eight base budget bills. Over the next few weeks, the Legislature will continue to finalize the budget and will pass a final budget by the conclusion of the session on March 4.

HONORING UTAH'S FIRST RESPONDERS

This week, the Senate and House honored Utah's brave first responders and those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. We are grateful for the heroism and selflessness of our law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders.

RAISE THE FUTURE

RRJ Consulting is working pro-bono with Raise the Future to help support foster care and adoption. This issue is close to all our hearts and something we are passionate about. As the father of six adopted children, Rob is especially dedicated to working with this organization to ensure children are given the best resources and opportunities.

Looking Ahead

NEXT WEEK – 1/2 WAY MARK!
APPROPRIATION PRIORITIZATION
FOCUS SHIFTS TO STANDING COMMITTEES
MORE FLOOR TIME

MARCH 4 – FINAL DAY OF THE 2022 GENERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION
