



# Utah Farm Bureau Policy Watch 2009

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Week 1 – January 26- 30

## 2009 Utah Legislative Session Weekly Update

The Policy Watch is sent weekly to members at the end of the calendar week. Should you wish to receive the report electronically please contact Brenda Barnes at 801-233-3040 or [Brenda.barnes@fbfs.com](mailto:Brenda.barnes@fbfs.com).

(\* (asterisk) denotes action has been taken on the bill during the week)

### HOUSE BILLS

**\*HB 18 WATER RIGHT APPLICATIONS AND RECORDS (PAINTER)** This bill defines terms and requires the state engineer to extend the time in which to complete an application if the applicant meets certain requirements; it clarifies the calculation of time for extension of an application and deletes redundant provisions relating to an extension of certain applications. It deletes provisions relating to when a state engineer shall deny or approve an application and authorizes, and in some cases requires, the extension of time on a water right application held by a public water supplier or a wholesale electrical cooperative. It authorizes the segregation of a water right or an application. It deletes the requirement to deny segregation for certain reasons; authorizes the consolidation of a water right or application. FB is monitoring this bill. **Passed House, Senate Rules**

**\*HB 19 WATER RIGHTS INFORMAL ADJUDICATION (MCIFF)** This bill allows the court to consider failure to prosecute a suit to final judgment within a certain time period lack of

diligence, rather than requiring the court to dismiss the action. This bill was recommended by the Interim Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee. FB supports this bill. **Passed house, Senate Rules Committee.**

**\*HB 27 PROTECTIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (MORLEY)** This bill eliminates the presumption that agricultural operations are conducted in accordance with sound agricultural practices and provides that agricultural operations are not nuisances. FB supports this bill. **Passed House, Senate Rules Committee.**

**\*HB 62 STATE WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AMENDMENTS (GIBSON)** This bill allows more than two senators from the same political party to serve on the State Water Development Commission in certain circumstances. FB supports this bill. **Passed House Committee, held for fiscal note.**

**\*HB 68 DEVELOPMENT EXACTIONS (PAINTER)** This bill enacts a definition of "water interest" and places limitations and restrictions on a county or municipality's imposition of an exaction for a water interest; and requires culinary water authorities to provide the basis for its calculations of projected water right requirements. FB supports this bill. **Passed House Committee, Circled on Third Reading.**

**\*HB 73 VEHICLE OPERATOR TURN OFF REQUIREMENTS (HUNSAKER)** This bill defines slow moving vehicle; requires an operator of a slow-moving vehicle causing a line of five or more vehicles behind the operator's vehicle on a highway with one lane in each direction to turn off the roadway where a safe turn-out exists; and

permit the following vehicles to pass; provides that the operator of certain vehicles is exempt from the requirement to turn off the roadway and permit the vehicles following behind the operator's vehicle to pass. FB is monitoring this bill. **House Committee Motion to pass failed. Substitute bill sent to Fiscal analyst.**

**HB 105 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AMENDMENTS (MATHIS)** This bill allows the Department of Agriculture and Food to approve and make grants and loans to certain individuals under the rural rehabilitation program. FB supports this bill. **No action to date.**

**\*HB 115 COUNTY CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION FUND (DRAXLER)** This bill: amends the Farmland Assessment Act to authorize a county legislative body to deposit certain revenues received under the Farmland Assessment Act into a conservation and preservation fund; establishes the purposes for which revenues deposited into a conservation and preservation fund may be expended; and provides that a conservation and preservation fund is subject to Title 17, Chapter 36, Uniform Fiscal Procedures Act for Counties. FB supports this bill. **Passed House Committee. House Third Reading Calendar.**

**HB 120 SNAKE VALLEY AQUIFER TEAM AND ADVISORY COUNCIL (WINN)** This bill creates the Snake Valley Aquifer Research Team and creates the Snake Valley Aquifer Advisory Council; establishes council duties; and establishes research team data and information collection and reporting duties. FB is monitoring this bill. **No action to date.**

**HB 240 WANTON DESTRUCTION OF LIVESTOCK (MENLOVE)** This bill defines terms; establishes penalties for the wanton destruction of livestock; and provides for the seizure and disposition of property used in the wanton destruction of livestock. FB supports this bill. **No action to date.**

**HB 241 PRIORITY OF WATER RIGHTS (GIBSON)** This bill repeals a section relating to

the priority of water rights in times of scarcity. FB policy on prior appropriation doctrine supports this bill. **No action to date.**

**HB 256 LIVESTOCK WATERING RIGHT AMENDMENTS (NOEL)** This bill repeals the authority of the Department of Agriculture and Food relating to a livestock water use certificate; defines terms; authorizes a beneficial user to file a nonuse application for a livestock watering right; repeals the provision relating to a forage right; clarifies who can apply for a livestock water use certificate; and requires the state engineer to provide an online application for a livestock water use certificate. FB is monitoring this bill. **No action to date.**

**HB 278 B AND C ROAD FUND AMENDMENTS (NOEL)** This bill provides that a county or municipality may use up to 30% of the class B and class C roads account funds allocated to the county or municipality to pay the costs of asserting, defending, or litigating state and local government rights under R.S. 2477. FB is monitoring this bill. **No action to date.**

## SENATE BILLS

**\*SB 13 ADMINISTERING SUBSTANCES TO WILDLIFE (DAYTON)** This bill defines terms; and prohibits a person from administering a substance to wildlife, except in certain circumstances. FB supports this bill. There is an exemption for agriculture as used in normal activities. **Passed Senate, and passed House Committee. House Second Reading Calendar.**

**\*SB 33 UTILITY TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR SITING TASK FORCE (JENKINS)** This bill creates the Utility Transmission Corridor Siting Task Force; provides for membership of the task force and member compensation; specifies duties and responsibilities of the task force; and specifies the issues that the task force will review. FB is monitoring this bill. **Passed Senate, sent to House.**

**\*SB 41 SITING OF HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINE ACT (KNUDSON)** This bill authorizes the Public Service Commission to conduct hearings and designate the siting of certain high voltage power lines that traverse more than one local government entity. FB is monitoring this bill. **Senate to Standing Committee.**

**SB 128 RAINWATER HARVESTING (JENKINS)** This bill provides for the collection and use of precipitation without obtaining a water right under certain conditions. FB is monitoring this bill for potential water right holder implications. **Senate Rules Committee.**

**SB 136 DIESEL-POWERED MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSIONS INSPECTION PROGRAM AMENDMENTS (BELL)** This bill provides that an implement of husbandry and a farm truck that has a gross vehicle weight rating of 12,001 pounds or more is exempt from the diesel-powered motor vehicle emissions opacity inspection and maintenance program; provides that a legislative body of a county shall exempt a pickup truck with a gross vehicle weight rating of 12,000 pounds or less from the diesel-powered motor vehicle emissions opacity inspection and maintenance program if the registered owner of the pickup truck provides a signed statement to the legislative body that the pickup truck is used by an owner or operator of a farm on agricultural land exclusively for the purposes of operating the farm; requires the legislative body of a county to issue a certificate of exemption to certain pickup trucks

that are used by an owner or operator of a farm. FB supports this bill. It closes a loophole that was unintended from previous legislation. **No action to date.**

## Resolutions

**HR 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NARROWS WATER PROJECT IN CENTRAL UTAH (WINN)** This resolution of the House of Representatives urges Congress and the United States Bureau of Reclamation to support development of the Narrows Water Project in Central Utah. FB is monitoring this resolution. **Passed House, awaiting enrollment.**

**HJR 7 EQUINE RESOURCES JOINT RESOLUTION (WINN)** This resolution urges the United States Congress to oppose federal legislation that would interfere with a state's authority to direct the transport or processing of horses. FB supports this resolution. **Passed House Committee and House. Senate Rules Committee.**

If you have questions, concerns or comments in regards to a bill or issue, please contact Todd Bingham at (801) 440-6510 or email to [tbingham@fbfs.com](mailto:tbingham@fbfs.com). Also, if you have access to the Internet, a good source for action on all bills and legislative activities is on the legislative website at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov) you can also access this site through the Utah Farm Bureau Federation Website at <http://utfb.fb.org>

## Legislative Action Legend

**House or Senate to standing committee** – The Rules Committee recommends to the presiding officer of the standing committee to which the bill should be referred. The standing committee, in an open meeting, reviews the bill and receives public testimony. The committee may amend, hold, table, substitute, or make a favorable recommendation on the bill.

**Passed Committee** – The bill has been heard and has been sent back to the house it came from to be heard on the floor and voted on. The bill will then be forwarded onto the other body to follow the same similar process.

**House or Senate Reading Calendars** – The bill is on the board to be heard for the second or third time and then either referred to Governor for signature or sent to the other house for consideration. Bills in the

Senate are heard for the second and third time before passing the body. Bills in the House are heard first to be read in, secondly after they come back from committee and then a third time before they go to the other body. The third time is when they are voted on while on the floor. Debate is heard and discussion is had prior to action being taken on the bill.

**Circled-** Action taken when there is potentially debate on a bill or not enough votes to pass. The bill is essentially frozen until the sponsor moves to un-circle and take further action.

**Sent to Rules Committee** – After a bill is heard in committee it is sent to the rules committee to determine when it will be put on the board and sent to the floor to be heard.

**Passed awaiting enrollment** – Bill passes and awaiting the signature of the governor and to be enrolled into law.

**Consent Calendar** – Calendar on the floor where a bill is passed through committee with no opposition. Bills on the consent calendar do not require a debate on the floor. They are voted on based on a committee recommendation and then passed to the other house for further consideration.

## HOW AN IDEA BECOMES A LAW

- **An Idea Is Developed.** A legislator draws from numerous sources in deciding what should be introduced in the Legislature as a bill. Major sources of ideas come from constituents, government agencies, special interest groups, lobbyists, the Governor, and the legislator.
- **The Bill is Drafted.** The idea is submitted to the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, a nonpartisan legislative staff office, in the form of a bill request. The assigned bill drafting attorney reviews existing law, researches the issues, and prepares the bill in proper technical form. The bill is given a number. A fiscal review is conducted and a "Fiscal Note" is attached. The bill is also reviewed for statutory or constitutional concerns.
- **The Bill is Introduced.** The bill is introduced into the Legislature and referred to the Rules Committee.
- **The Bill Receives Standing Committee Review and Public Input.** The Rules Committee recommends to the presiding officer the standing committee to which the bill should be referred. The standing committee, in an open meeting, reviews the bill and receives public testimony. The committee may amend, hold, table, substitute, or make a favorable recommendation on the bill.
- **The Bill Is Returned to the Floor.** Following the committee hearing the bill is returned to the full house with a committee report. The committee reports the bill out favorably, favorably with amendments, substituted, or that the bill has been tabled.
- **The Bill is Debated in Open Session.** The bill is debated in open session. During floor debate, the bill can be amended or substituted. It can be held (circled). In order for a bill to pass the House of Representatives, it must receive at least 38 votes. The bill must receive at least 15 votes in the Senate in order to pass.
- **The Bill Passes Both Houses in the Legislature.** After the bill has gone through both houses, it is signed by both presiding officers (the Senate President and the Speaker of the House).

- **The Bill is Prepared for the Governor's Action.** The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel prepares the bill in final form. This is called the "enrolled" bill.
- **The Bill Receives the Governor's Action.** The enrolled bill is sent to the Governor for his action. He can either sign the bill, veto it, or allow it become law without his signature.
- **The Bill Becomes Effective.** A bill enacted by the Legislature is effective 60 days following adjournment, unless another date is specified in the bill.

# **Utah Budget Overview**

Representative Brad Dee

Utah House of Representatives

Several generations have come and gone since the state last saw their economy falter in quite this way. We do indeed find ourselves with some rather rainy economic weather of late. For the past year, the economic experts have been watching our accounts payable and accounts receivable. The state spends nearly \$450 million a month for all our programs and departments; unfortunately, we've only been collecting about \$380 million a month in revenue. November and December revenues were even lower. It is apparent when one does the math that we will run out of money before the fiscal year ends on July 1st.

As the Legislature begins the 2009 General Session, balancing the budget will be the most dominating issue. The Legislature must also prepare a budget for the 2010 fiscal year, which must be smaller than in years past. As they make difficult choices about how they will manage your tax dollars, they know that they have many options at their disposal. With every option they consider, the goal must be to protect the classroom, to sustain vital human service programs with marching federal dollars, and to do all this without raising taxes.

This budget shortfall must be addressed quickly and decisively. The Legislature may consider finding new revenue, shrinking government spending, borrowing money by bonding, or tapping into our rainy day fund. Each option, of course, has its pros and cons. For instance, finding new revenue would likely mean increasing taxes or fees on the citizenry. Many households in our state are already under considerable financial strain. Any additional tax or fee burdens, while generating more state revenue, might be a crushing blow to those who need our help the most. Any attempts to increase revenue must be targeted for minimal impact and maximum gain. The Legislature must use their rainy day funds responsibly so that they have enough to get them through not just a few rainy days, but the entire monsoon season. The ability to bond relies greatly on the strength of the rainy day fund because it is the source of the AAA bond rating.

Obviously, each state department and program will be asked to tighten its belt. Every dollar will be thoroughly examined before it is spent so that it does the greatest possible good for the greatest number of people. Departments will be asked to be creative, to stretch. Any idea that follows the thinking, "Yes we can, if..." will be explored. Bonding will likely be employed to free up money for projects that create in-state jobs like road projects and higher education buildings. They

will also use some of the rainy day funds this year, but they will be used as a last resort and in a support role to the other options.

*Representative Brad Dee represents House District 11 and serves as House Majority Whip as well as serving on the House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee.*