**USBA/USSA/UASBO**

**2013 Joint Legislative Committee Positions**

**HB24 Utah Retirement System Amendments** (D. Ipson)

Modifies the Utah State Retirement and Insurance Benefit Act by amending its provisions.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/hbillint/HB0024.pdf> **POSITION: SUPPORT**

**HB49 Voted and Board Levy Program Amendments (S. Handy)**

Every year, due to varying schedules and formulas, there are remaining, non-lapsing funds after the state guarantee match has been made for local board and voted levies. In FY13, it is anticipated that this amount may be as much as $19.5 million. This bill will allow the USOE to push the funding out to districts in an ongoing way, starting with FY13 funds. <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2012/pdf/00002239.pdf> **POSITION: SUPPORT**

**HB55 Amendment Related to Education Funding (J. Briscoe)**

Establishes a set tax rate for the minimum basic tax rate, subject to the rate generating a specified revenue amount;eliminates an advertising requirement related to the minimum basic tax rate;

changes the personal exemption component of the individual income tax credit calculation from a percentage of the federal personal exemption to a fixed dollar amount per exemption;

<http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/hbillint/HB0055.pdf> **POSITION: SUPPORT**

**HB59 School Board Elections Provisions (J. Nielson)**

Requires the direct, nonpartisan election of members of the State Board of Education;

Repeals the involvement of the governor and the nominating and recruiting committee in the nomination of candidates for the State Board of Education;

Establishes the primary election for the State Board of Education and local school boards on the second Tuesday following the first Monday in August of an odd-numbered year;

Establishes the general election for the State Board of Education and local school boards on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each odd-numbered year;

Designates a county clerk as the election officer for the election of the State Board of Education and local school boards

<http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/hbillint/HB0059.pdf> **POSITION: SUPPORT**

**HB 246 Expanded Uses of School District Property Tax Revenue (K. McIff)**

Allows local school boards to use revenue collected from certain capital property tax levies for certain general fund purposes for fiscal years 2013-14 and 2014-15; requires a local school board to notify taxpayers of certain uses of property tax revenue. <http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/hbillint/hb0246.pdf> **POSITION: SUPPORT**

**HB255 Classified School Employee Amendment (B. Last)**

Provides that, for purposes of determining retirement benefits, a regular full-time employee does not include a classified school employee who is hired on or after July 1, 2013, and does not receive benefits normally provided by the participating employer, or who is hired before July 1, 2013, who did not qualify as a regular full-time employee before July 1, 2013, who does not receive benefits normally provided by the participating employer, and who employment hours are increased on or after July 1, 2013. “Grandfathers” in any who are currently receiving retirement now.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/hbillint/HB0255.pdf> **POSITION: SUPPORT**

**HB264 Property Tax Notice Amendments (K. Powell)**

Requires a property tax notice to state the amount of lost revenue for districts that goes to support local replacement of property taxes for charter schools. <http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/hbillint/HB0264.pdf> **POSITION: SUPPORT CONCEPT**

**HB267 State Board of Education Elections (C. Moss)**

Requires the direct, nonpartisan election of members of the State Board of Education and repeals the involvement of the governor and the nominating and recruiting committee for the State Board of Education in the selection process.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/hbillint/HB0267.pdf> **POSITION: SUPPORT**

**HB271 Funding for Public Education (J. Bird)**

Directs the deposit of a portion of liquor revenues to the Education Fund; provides for the distribution of liquor revenues to local educational agencies; establishes that the money may be used for teacher salaries or benefits; and addresses money deposited into the Education Fund.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/hbillint/HB0271.pdf> **POSITION:  HOLD (sponsor said a substitute is forthcoming; questions about effects on school lunch program and other questions yet unanswered)**

**HB275 Health Insurance for Schools (J. Bird)**

Requires local school boards and charter schools to seek competitive bids on the health insurance benefits it offers school district employees beginning in the 2013-14 school year and every five years thereafter and establishes criteria for the competitive bids. <http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/hbillint/HB0275.pdf> **POSITION:  LOCAL ISSUE – UNNECESSARY (Every district has unique financial situations and experience in insurance matters.  The bill should “encourage” timely re-bidding, but not mandate a certain cycle.)**

**HB293 School Parent Organization Amendments** (D. Brown) For references to government services, anywhere that Parent-Teachers’ Association are mentioned in various parts of the Utah Code, this bill would also insert “or a parent organization” of the schools within the district. <http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/hbillint/HB0293.pdf> **POSITION: HOLD (Amendment expected)**

**HB298 Parent Seminar on Youth Protection** (S. Eliason) Requires the State Board and school districts to implement a parent seminar with information on substance abuse, bullying, mental health, and Internet safety. Requires a school district to notify charter schools located within the school district’s boundaries of the parent seminar. <http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/hbillint/HB0298.pdf> **POSITION: LOCAL ISSUE**

**SB10 Retirement Eligibility Amendments (T. Weiler)**

Recommended by the Retirement and Independent Entities Interim Committee, this bill modifies the Utah State Retirement and Insurance Benefit Act by amending retirement eligibility provisions. <http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/sbillint/SB0010.pdf> **POSITION: SUPPORT**

**SB34 Special Election Date for Ballot Propositions (H. Stephenson)**

Requires an election for a bond, debt, leeway, levy, or tax to take place on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. <http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/sbillint/SB0034.pdf>

**POSITION:  LOCAL ISSUE (Having some school-related elections/votes helps a community to really focus on the school issues rather than be combined with the complex and complicated November elections.  Partisan politics are generally not involved in school voting matters which keeps schools from being viewed as partisan.  A date different from the November date simplifies the understanding of the issues involved.)**

**SB39 Parent Responsibility for Sex Education Training (S. Reid)**

Requires the USOE to create an online and a face-to-face training program for parents to teach their children sex education. Requires a USOE employee to provide the face-to-face training.<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2012/pdf/00002235.pdf> **POSITION: UNNECESSARY (The State PTA and many internet sources provide excellent training materials for parents. There will be costs associated with an online site and restricted access as well as with a traveling training employee.)**

**SB42 Medical School Admissions Funding** (J. Valentine) Appropriates $10 million from the Education Fund to increase the number of students admitted to the University of Utah School of Medicine for 40 additional students annually (ongoing appropriations). <http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/sbillint/SB0042.pdf> **POSITION: SUPPORT WITH NEW MONEY (ECONOMIC IMPACT)**

**SB43S1 Financial and Economic Literacy Education Amendments** (P. Jones)

Requires the State Board to establish a task force to study and make recommendations on how to improve financial and economic literacy education in public schools, including certain issues. Requires the study of the development of an online assessment of students’ competency in financial and economic literacy, including an assessment of the effectiveness of instruction in the course.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/sbillint/SB0043S01.pdf> **POSITION: SUPPORT THE CONCEPT**

**SB103 Carson Smith Scholarship Amendments** (J.S. Adams)

Requires the Legislature to annually increase the amount of money appropriated for scholarship payments and requires the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee to study the requirement to annually increase appropriations for scholarship payments if the percentage of scholarship students equals or exceeds 7% of the public school students statewide in grades kindergarten through 12 who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) as of October 1 each year.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/sbillint/SB0103.pdf> **POSITION: OPPOSE**

**SB110 School-based Budgeting Amendments** (H. Stephenson)

Requires a school district to distribute 85% of Minimum School Program revenues directly to schools in accordance with a weighted student formula determined by the district. Requires a principal, in coordination with an advisory council (SCC) to determine how to use revenues, create a plan and budget, and submit to the local school board for approval. <http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/sbillint/SB0110.pdf> **POSITION: OPPOSED**

**SB122 Student Leadership Skills Development** (A. Osmond) Requires an RFP process from the State Board to identify a provider for a three-year pilot program in an elementary school to develop students’ behaviors and skills that enhance a school’s learning environment and are vital to success in a career. Requires matching funds from the school for two years “in an amount equal to the value of the professional development and materials provided to the school” and gives preference to a Title I school. Appropriates $240,000 from the General Fund. Requires a report by the State Board to the Education Interim Committee. <http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/sbillint/SB0122.pdf> **POSITION: UNNECESSARY**

**SB128 Financial Transparency in Education** (D. Thatcher)

Requires a school district or charter school, when submitting public financial information to the Utah Public Finance Website, to classify transactions in accordance with a uniform chart of accounts that school districts and charter schools are required to use for budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, and auditing purposes pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education.

<http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/sbillint/SB0128.pdf> **POSITION: SUPPORT WITH COMMENTS (We fully support transparency but we need a state system that will support this requirement. There will be financial and human resource costs to districts to implement, input and track data. If used in comparative ways, the database must be informed by the context/demographics of each school.)**

**SB133 School Performance Report Amendments (H. Stephenson)**

Modifies the content of a school performance report to include advanced placement scores, a four-year history of scores and “by class” test scores of a school’s students; provides for public online access to a school performance report; and requires the State Board of Education to protect students’ privacy by not revealing aggregated test scores if fewer than 10 test scores are in the group of aggregated test scores. Also refers to use of the Utah Basic Skills Competency Test. <http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/sbillint/SB0133.pdf> **POSITION: OPPOSED**

**SB134 Utah Performance Assessment System for Student (U-PASS) Amendments** (originally to be

sponsored by M. Dayton; now sponsored by H. Stephenson)

Modifies U-PASS by eliminating the tenth grade basic skills competency test and requiring school districts and charter schools to administer assessments adopted by the State Board of Education that indicate whether a student is prepared for postsecondary education or a career. Allocates an ongoing $700,000 from Education Fund. <http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/sbillint/SB0134.pdf> **POSITION: SUPPORT**

**SB162 Concurrent Enrollment Amendments** (S. Urquhart) Allows a student taking CE taught at a public school facility to not pay the partial tuition if the student elects not to receive credit from an institution of higher education. Allows an institution of higher education to charge a student partial tuition for technology-intensive CE courses (TICE), and for gateway career and technology education courses. Eliminates a provision allowing a student to pay a reduced partial tuition rate for each subsequent CE course the student takes after the student pays the partial tuition for the first CE course. <http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/sbillint/SB0162.pdf> **POSITION: SUPPORT**

**SB169 Education Task Force** (S. Reid)

Creates the Education Task Force of the Utah Legislature to include members of leadership from both houses and both parties, as well as public education legislative leaders and appointed legislative members. Provides for compensation from the General Fund. The Task Force shall make recommendations related to public and higher education, including policies, alignment, funding and budgeting, priorities, and “setting standards to be economically competitive in the United States and throughout the world.” <http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/sbillint/SB0169.pdf> **POSITION: SUPPORT CONCEPT WITH COMMENTS (Legislative discussion should involve the Governor’s plan and that of Prosperity 2020; expert educators should be included in the committee or serve as close advisors)**

**SCR5 Concurrent Resolution Endorsing the Utah Education Excellence Commission (J. Stevenson)**

This resolution expresses strong support for achieving the goal that 66% of Utah’s adults will hold

a postsecondary degree or certificate by the year 2020; expresses the Legislature's determination to work with the Governor and Utah's education stakeholders to achieve the 66% goal through increased innovation and investment, and utilizing the PACE metrics as a measure of success; and

urges all Utahns to unite behind efforts to achieve the 66% goal. <http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/sbillint/SCR005.pdf>

**(The membership of the USSA and the Board of Directors of USBA has each unanimously supported this resolution in the past few weeks.) POSITION: SUPPORT**

**SJR 5 Joint Resolution on State Superintendent of Public Instruction** (S. Reid)

Requires a Constitutional change, through a vote of the people, to allow for the Governor’s approval and the Senate’s consent for an appointment of the State Superintendent. Authorizes the Governor, after consultation with the State Board of Education, to terminate the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. <http://le.utah.gov/~2013/bills/sbillint/SJR005.pdf> **POSITION: OPPOSE**

**Yet to be numbered) High Quality Preschool (A. Osmond)**

Takes five million dollars from the Education Fund to initiate a pilot program in seven school districts to establish high quality preschools for at-risk students. The quality will be set by the adoption of certain instructional standards. Allows for public-private partnerships to house and teach students. Modeled after the Granite School District preschool program. <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2012/pdf/00002015.pdf> **POSITION: LOCAL ISSUE** **(Many districts already have such programs and any money taken from the Education Fund or Special Education funds only depletes funding available for local use and local priorities.)**