**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.

<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 (Sponsor is working through complexities about how money is allocated as it relates to state funding.)**

**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.)**

**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.)**

**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**

**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**

**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.)**