

(Draft - Awaiting Formal Approval)  
**MINUTES OF THE  
WORKFORCE SERVICES AND COMMUNITY  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, September 16, 2009 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 450 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Mark B. Madsen, Senate Chair  
Rep. Steven R. Mascaró, House Chair  
Sen. Patricia W. Jones  
Sen. Daniel R. Liljenquist  
Sen. Ralph Okerlund  
Sen. Luz Robles  
Rep. Laura Black  
Rep. James A. Dunnigan  
Rep. Neil A. Hansen  
Rep. Christopher N. Herrod  
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion  
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

**Members Absent:**

Rep. Paul Ray

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Arthur L. Hunsaker, Policy Analyst  
Mr. James L. Wilson, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Mascaró called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

**MOTION:** Sen. Okerlund moved to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Draft Legislation, "Unemployment Insurance Amendments"**

Mr. Wilson reviewed the 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Unemployment Insurance Amendments." He noted that the draft bill modifies the base period for qualifying for unemployment insurance benefits.

Mr. Bill Starks, Unemployment Insurance Director, Department of Workforce Services, distributed and reviewed the handout "Department of Workforce Services - Unemployment Insurance Amendments." He discussed the fiscal impact of the draft legislation.

Mr. Jim Olsen, member of the State Council on Workforce Services, spoke in support of the draft legislation on behalf of the Council.

**MOTION:** Sen. Robles moved to adopt 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Unemployment Insurance Amendments," as a committee bill. The motion passed with Sen. Madsen, Rep. Herrod, and Rep. Sumsion voting in opposition. Sen. Liljenquist was absent for the vote.

**3. Draft Legislation, "Amendments to Programs for People with Disabilities"**

Rep. Mascaró turned the chair over to Sen. Madsen.

Rep. Mascaro reviewed 2010 General Session draft legislation, "Amendments to Programs for People with Disabilities." He noted that the draft bill modifies provisions relating to people with disabilities programs.

Mr. Leslee Hintze, Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, spoke in support of the draft legislation.

Mr. Kyle Walker, Utah State Office of Rehabilitation, discussed the process for hiring people with disabilities.

**MOTION:** Sen. Robles moved to adopt 2010 General Session draft legislation "Amendments to Programs for People with Disabilities," as a committee bill. The motion failed with Sen. Jones, Rep. Black, Rep. Hansen, Rep. Mascaro, and Rep. Watkins voted in favor.

#### **4. Social Security Offset**

Rep. Mascaro noted the chairs determined that this issue, which was discussed at the August Interim Committee meeting, warranted further discussion.

Mr. Hunsaker discussed the impact of the Social Security Offset on individuals eligible to receive both Social Security and unemployment compensation benefits and clarified that if the 50 percent offset currently in statute were allowed to lapse, the offset would automatically rise to 100 percent.

Mr. Jim Olsen, Employment Advisory Council, recommended letting the Social Security Offset provision sunset.

Mr. Tony Montano, Employment Advisory Council, recommended continuing the current 50 percent offset.

Mr. Rich Kingery, Employment Advisory Council, spoke of the need to look at extending the 50 percent offset although he expressed a desire for Utah to join the 43 other states that have no offset against unemployment benefits.

Mr. Chris Love, Deputy Director, Department of Workforce Services, distributed a handout "Department of Workforce Services - Unemployment Compensation Social Security Offset," and responded to committee questions regarding Social Security benefits and eligibility for unemployment benefits.

Sen. Karen Mayne indicated that her deceased husband was brought up at the last Committee meeting regarding his involvement on this issue and she therefore wanted to speak to the proposed bill. She recommended no Social Security Offset, but as a second choice to at least continue the 50 percent offset.

Ms. Melissa Smith, Community Action Partnership of Utah, distributed and gave an overview of the handout "Fact Sheet - Social Security Offset."

Ms. Laura Polacheck, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Utah, spoke against the Social Security Offset.

Ms. Baerbel Osborne, senior citizen, spoke against the offset.

Mr. Fynbo, senior citizen, spoke against the offset.

Mr. Tom Bingham, President, Utah Manufacturers Association, and a member of the Employment Advisory Council, spoke in favor of allowing the current offset to lapse.

Mr. Love and Mr. Starks responded to committee questions regarding severance pay, pensions, and unemployment offsets.

**MOTION:** Sen. Robles moved to take a committee position to remove the sunset provision and allow the 50 percent offset to unemployment insurance to remain in effect. The motion passed with Sen. Madsen voting in opposition. Sen. Okerlund was absent for the vote.

Chair Mascaro directed committee staff to prepare legislation for the October meeting that incorporated the essence of the motion.

## **5. Department of Workforce Services - "Demand Driven" Initiative**

Chair Mascaro noted that because of health issues Ms. Kristen Cox, Executive Director, Department of Workforce Services, was not able to attend the meeting. This agenda item will be discussed at the October Committee meeting.

## **6. Sundance Institute Presentation**

Ms. Sarah West, Director of Utah Community Development, Sundance Institute, distributed and gave a brief overview on a handout "Sundance Institute." She noted that the 2009 Sundance Film Festival generated \$92 million in economic impact for Utah and supported approximately 2,000 jobs.

## **7. Other Business / Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Black moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Okerlund and Rep. Dunnigan were absent for the vote.

Chair Mascaro adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m.