

**MINUTES OF THE
WORKFORCE SERVICES AND COMMUNITY
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, October 15, 2003 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 131 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Scott K. Jenkins, Senate Chair
Rep. David N. Cox, House Chair
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Carlene Walker
Rep. Brent H. Goodfellow
Rep. Dana C. Love
Rep. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff

Members Absent:

Sen. David L. Thomas
Rep. Jeff Alexander
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes
Rep. Steven R. Mascaro
Rep. Peggy Wallace

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark B. Steinagel, Policy Analyst
Mr. James L. Wilson, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://le.utah.gov> or by contacting the committee secretary, Glenda Whitney, at 538-1032.

1. Committee Business

Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 2:24 p.m. He excused Rep. Wallace from attending the meeting. He noted the next Workforce Services and Community and Economic Development Interim Committee meeting on November 19, 2003, will be from 10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. because of the special session.

Staff distributed a handout "Response to Legislative Interim Meeting Questions Child Care Eligibility Simplification Study - Lynette Rasmussen, September 22, 2003," for the Committee to review.

MOTION: Rep. Love moved to approve the minutes of September 17, 2003. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Walker absent for the vote.

2. Consider Proposed Legislation, "Unemployment Compensation–Social Security Benefits Offset"

Mr. Chris Love, Unemployment Insurance Director, Department of Workforce Services, distributed a handout "Proposed Changes to Contributions (UI Tax) Section of Employment Security Act." He noted that Utah is one of only three states that completely offsets unemployment insurance benefits by the amount of Social Security an individual receives. He presented an overview on proposed legislation that reduces the offset to 50 percent and sunsets the change in three years.

Chair Cox took public comment.

Mr. Tim Shultz, Utah Issues, distributed a handout "20 Year History Utah UI Payroll Tax Rates," and discussed the UI Tax on total wages.

Mr. Michael Siler, AARP, distributed a handout "Unemployment Compensation / Social Security Benefits

Offset Talking Points," and presented written comments.

Mr. Tom Bingham, Utah Manufacturers Association, commented on the sunset provision of the proposed legislation.

MOTION: Sen. Hale moved to approve the proposed legislation, "Unemployment Compensation - Social Security Benefits Offset" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Consider Proposed Legislation, "Employment Security Modifications"

Mr. Love referred to the proposed legislation "Employment Security Modifications," and explained the proposed changes to the unemployment insurance law.

Ms. Karen Silver, Salt Lake Community Action Program, commented on the issue.

Mr. Bingham spoke in support of the changes.

MOTION: Rep. Morgan moved to adopt "Employment Security Modifications" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Goodfellow moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Cox adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.