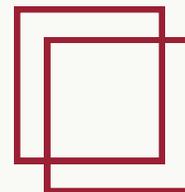


LEGISLATIVE REPORT 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The 2025 General Session reached a new record with 961 proposed bills! Working closely with our partners, Salt Lake County's Office of Homelessness and Criminal Justice Reform tracked 185 bills potentially impacting these systems and the people they serve.

Two driving forces characterized the 2025 session. Tight state budgets amid federal funding uncertainty and an intensified focus on the intersection of homelessness and the criminal justice system. The confluence of these two forces produced several outcomes. First, legislation increased pressure on local law enforcement and jails to address the complex challenges related to homelessness. Second, administrators and service providers were asked to provide more oversight with limited funding to support these activities. Third, legislation

removed procedural barriers to home ownership but did not fund deeply affordable and permanent supportive housing, potentially exacerbating Salt Lake County's affordable housing crisis.

The office and its partners continue to pursue evidence-based solutions to community challenges. This means creating streamlined pathways to access housing, behavioral health care, and employment support. It means finding new ways to collaborate efficiently, share information, and improve processes while holding individuals and ourselves accountable.

We seek to enhance collaboration by communicating complexity in an accessible way. We hope this report will be a tool for our partners as we work to implement legislation and solve problems together.

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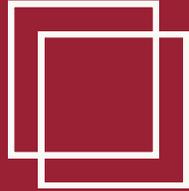
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 **SALT LAKE COUNTY**
OFFICE OF HOMELESSNESS AND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

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OVERVIEW



Salt Lake County's Office of Homelessness and Criminal Justice Reform presents the following report on bills and appropriations from the 2025 General Session of the Utah State Legislature. The office was formed in July 2023 as a part of the County's unified approach to understanding and addressing issues at the intersection of homelessness and criminal justice.

961 | proposed bills

The office collaborates closely with county, state, and local partners to supply decision-makers with timely, accurate information during the legislative session. The office also engages system stakeholders by convening the Criminal Justice Advisory Council (CJAC) and the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness (SLVCEH). This report reflects a balance of perspectives and the sum of expertise shared across those partnerships.

185 | tracked bills

42 | bills in report

The report has three goals.

- 1 | Identify key themes that emerged during the 2025 legislative session.
- 2 | Outline appropriations decisions that will impact homelessness and criminal justice systems and services.
- 3 | Summarize crucial elements from high-impact bills.

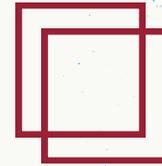
TOTAL FUNDING

\$51.8M

Criminal Justice &
School Safety

\$34.4M

Homelessness &
Housing



Total Bills [43]

Homelessness [22]

... Clients & Providers [6]

These bills impact how providers deliver homeless services to their clients. While shelters are the main focus, other services and programs may also be impacted by bills in this category.

... Housing Affordability [7]

These bills address pathways to affordable, sustainable housing. This includes changes to the requirements and incentive structures impacting municipal and county development strategies as well as changes to the eviction process.

... Community Health [9]

These bills focus on access to behavioral and physical health care, especially for individuals experiencing homelessness. These bills impact the civil commitment process and change how care is provided in jails.

Criminal Justice [21]

... Legal Process [9]

These bills affect the internal mechanisms of the criminal justice system. They change what the law says and how laws are implemented and enforced. Additionally, bills in this category can impact the ways that individuals move through the criminal justice process and can include new requirements on public agencies and system administrators.

... Community Response & Reentry [6]

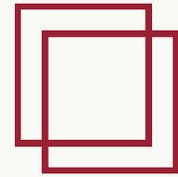
These bills focus on where the criminal justice system interfaces with the community. Key issues include crisis response and reentry, with an additional focus on coordination between law enforcement and other system stakeholders.

... Juveniles & Youth [6]

These bills specifically impact juveniles (under 18) and youth (18-25). Bills in this category include changes to the juvenile justice process and school safety protocols.

THEMES

CRIMINAL JUSTICE EMPHASIS



Legislation increased pressure on local law enforcement and jails to address challenges associated with homelessness.

H.B. 312 embodies this approach, introducing a **new framework** for how the criminal justice system handles **high-utilizers**:

- **Prevents** individuals **previously booked** into jail within the **last 12 months** from being **released** on their own recognizance or due to overcrowding.
- Adds **misdemeanor offenses** and **arrests** to the conditions under which someone could qualify as a “**habitual offender**,” which can trigger a **harsher sentence** if the individual is convicted.

H.B. 562 adds to that framework, making changes to the **pre-trial process**:

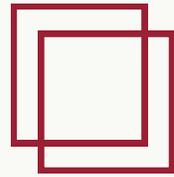
- Reinstates a **monetary bail** schedule and requiring judges to **consider flight risk** in addition to ability to pay when assigning a bail amount.
- Requires a judge to issue a **no-bail hold** for an individual **arrested on a felony** charge who **currently** meets the **habitual offender** or **would** qualify as such **if convicted**.

Other bills **target substance use** issues with **harsher penalties** and **new offenses**:

- H.B. 87 creates a **new 1st-degree felony for fentanyl distribution**, barring the court from granting **probation**, ordering **hospitalization**, shortening a sentence by **lowering the category** of offense or **suspending a sentence**, in most cases.
- H.B. 199 creates a **new 2nd-degree felony**, “maintenance of drug-involved premises,” targeting individuals who **knowingly provide a place** for drugs to be made, sold, or consumed.
- H.B. 329 requires homeless shelters to adopt a “**zero-tolerance**” **policy** towards drug use, institute a **bag-check protocol** at all entrances, **regularly search** clients’ belongings, and **cooperate with law enforcement** to aid investigations and arrests.

THEMES

ELEVATED EXPECTATIONS WITH LIMITED FUNDING



In a tight budget year, more was asked of administrators and providers.

The legislature **funded** roughly **half** of the **Governor's budget** request for **homelessness alleviation**:

- **\$5.5M** in **Emergency Shelter** funding, which is **42%** of the \$13M requested.
- **\$1.9M** in **Family Shelter** funding, which is **33%** of the \$5.8M requested.
- **\$6M over three years** in **federal TANF** funding for **non-congregate family shelter**.

The **Social Services** annual budget received a **\$48.6M** (3.15%) **cut**, and most **Behavioral Health Commission** recommendations were **not funded**.

At the same time, several bills increased the **administrative burden**:

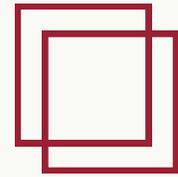
- H.B. 39 requires **local mental health authorities** to **assess** prison and jail **inmates** for **treatment** needs **3 months before** release.
- H.B. 199 requires **local mental health authorities** to maintain a **provider list** for first responders and adds new **reporting requirements** for **syringe exchange** programs and **SUD treatment** providers.
- H.B. 329 introduces a "**pathway to human thriving**" framework for **homeless services** program design and evaluation.

Additionally, **criminal justice system stakeholders** will see more **requirements** and **oversight**:

- H.B. 312 directs how **counties manage jail capacity**.
- H.B. 354 **expands prosecutorial time-tracking** and **adds** new **data reporting** requirements.
- H.B. 465 introduces **State oversight** of **Salt Lake City police** operations.

THEMES

NARROW FOCUS ON HOUSING AFFORDABILITY



Legislative housing strategy focused on emergency shelters and first-time homebuyers, not deeply affordable and permanent supportive housing.

A set of bills sought to build **pathways to homeownership** for **middle-income** individuals and families:

- H.B. 37 authorizes municipalities to **increase density** and incentivize **affordable housing**.
- H.B. 360 allows first- and second-class cities to utilize funds from the Utah Homes Investment Program to rehabilitate single-family homes.
- S.B. 23 establishes that a unit's **county**, rather than its municipality, will determine how **affordable housing** is categorized. The bill also creates **flexibility for municipalities** pursuing **First Home Investment Zone** (FHIZ) objectives.

Mostly one-time **family, non-congregate**, and **emergency shelter** funding was allocated, while a **bill** that would have created a **revenue source** for **affordable housing failed** to gather support.

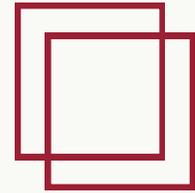
The legislature prioritized **home ownership** over **affordable rental units** and **permanent supportive housing**:

- H.C.R. 6 urges the **federal government** to modify HUD standards, deemphasizing **permanent supportive housing** and the **housing first** model and shifting from direct assistance to **block grants**.
- H.C.R. 14 focuses on home ownership but does not articulate how other housing modalities improve access to affordable housing statewide.

Deeply affordable and permanent supportive housing **prevent** and **reduce** homelessness.

Stable housing facilitates **successful treatment** and reduces **justice-involvement**.

HOMELESSNESS OVERVIEW



What passed?

Utah Homeless Services Board

- H.B. 329 **removes** county **elected official** and **behavioral health** representation, **adds** chair-appointed **lived expert**, and **creates** a Shelter Counties Advisory Board.
- H.B. 266 **requires coordination** with Department of Veterans and Military Affairs.

Winter Response Task Force

- H.B. 329 **explicitates** task force **duties**, **removes** local homeless councils' **power to appoint** non-voting members, and **adds** a **public safety** representative. It also clarifies that a **temporary winter response shelter qualifies** as a “homeless shelter” for the “**zero-tolerance**” requirement.
- H.B. 505 removes Utah League of Cities and Towns and one lived expert from nonvoting membership. It also requires Point-In-Time count data and blind reviews of possible facilities based on transit proximity.

Behavioral Health System

- H.B. 347 and H.B. 491 **streamline licensing** requirements and **allocate funding** towards Medicaid rate increases for **peer support** and **MCOT** as well as a **new** Odyssey House **transitional housing** facility.

What did not pass?

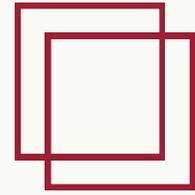
Summer Heat Response

- S.B. 182 would have created a “**Code Red**” protocol to **mitigate extreme heat** dangers for **individuals experiencing homelessness**.

Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund

- H.B. 286 would have used **state liquor sale revenues** to fund **new affordable housing** projects.

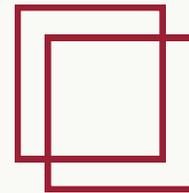
HOMELESSNESS APPROPRIATIONS



ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ONGOING	ONE-TIME	AREA
<i>Non-Congregate Family Shelter (TANF funded)</i>	Three years of funding for shelter construction and operations		\$ 6,000,000	Homelessness
<i>Homeless Services Dedicated Funding</i>	Supports operations for second family shelter in Salt Lake County	\$ 1,900,000		Homelessness
<i>Homeless Services Emergency Shelter</i>	Supports emergency winter/summer response statewide		\$ 5,500,000	Homelessness
<i>First-Time Homebuyer Program</i>	Supports down payment assistance and upfront cost		\$ 20,000,000	Housing Affordability
<i>Utah Workforce Housing Advocacy (UHWA)</i>	Advocates for affordable housing for first-time homebuyers and working families		\$ 1,000,000	Housing Affordability
<i>Social Services Budget Reduction</i>	3.15% base budget reduction	\$ (48,600,000)		Community Health
<i>Medicaid Consensus</i>	Caseload changes and mandatory cost drivers	\$ 82,000,000	\$ (85,200,000)	Community Health
<i>State Hospital</i>	Operational funds to support adequate staffing and resources	\$ 3,800,000	\$ 1,000,000	Community Health
<i>Opioid Settlement Funds</i>	Supports prevention and treatment	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 1,000,000	Community Health
<i>H.B. 491 Behavioral Health Modifications</i>	Suicide prevention outreach and training, peer support, mobile crisis outreach team, and Medicaid rate increase	\$ 1,035,600		Community Health
<i>H.B. 347 Social Services Program Amendments</i>	Behavioral health system support, end-of-life care for homeless individuals, and new transitional housing program	\$ 1,300,000	\$ (200,000)	Community Health
Total		\$ 44,535,600	\$ (50,900,000)	All

HOMELESSNESS

CLIENTS & PROVIDERS



These bills impact how providers deliver homeless services to clients. While focused on shelters, these bills also affect other services and programs.

H.B. 296

RECOVERY RESIDENCE SERVICES AMENDMENTS

Rep. Kyle | Sen. McKell

This bill clarifies that a residential vocational or life skills program is not a “recovery residence,” for individuals recovering from a substance use disorder and exempts those programs from related licensing requirements. Substance use treatment providers and community stakeholders have identified the need for sufficient State oversight for such programs after this change.

H.B. 329

HOMELESS SERVICES AMENDMENTS

Rep. Clancy | Sen. McCay

This bill adjusts the state’s strategy to address homelessness. First, it changes the Utah Homeless Services Board to include a chair-appointed lived expert and adds a Shelter Counties Advisory Board to maintain some (non-voting) County representation. Next, it requires shelters to adopt a zero-tolerance drug policy with supporting procedures and introduces an optional “pathway to human thriving” framework for program design and evaluation. The bill also modifies the nonvoting membership of each county’s winter response task force, reducing the number of local homeless council representatives from three to two, adding a public safety representative, and changing the selection process from the local homeless council to task force voting members. Additionally, the bill allows some State funding for transportation costs associated with homelessness diversion..

H.B. 465

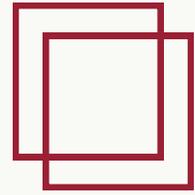
PUBLIC SAFETY AMENDMENTS

Rep. Snider | Sen. McKell

This bill requires Salt Lake City to enter into an interagency agreement with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) until July 1, 2027, to improve public safety with State oversight. This agreement requires Salt Lake City to reimburse DPS for relevant expenses and will provide a framework for joint operations, data sharing, and accountability metrics. The bill also allows the State to use eminent domain to seize unincorporated land for a homeless services site until July 1, 2027.

HOMELESSNESS

CLIENTS & PROVIDERS



H.B. 505

HOMELESS SERVICES REVISIONS

Rep. Eliason | Sen. Weiler

This bill simplifies the application process for Shelter Cities Mitigation Funding. Next, it creates a Class C misdemeanor for camping on State property, which address an enforcement gap reported by municipalities. The bill also requires a winter response task force to use point in time count data and blind location reviews in selecting temporary winter response shelter locations.

H.C.R. 6

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING CHANGES TO FEDERAL HOMELESSNESS REGULATIONS

Rep. Clancy | Sen. Balderree

This bill urges the federal government to update Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards and requirements to better align with the statewide homelessness strategy. Requested changes include streamlining Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data collection, deemphasizing permanent supportive housing and the housing first model in favor of alternative housing solutions, and shifting HUD funding to block grants rather than direct assistance. While coordination between state and federal strategies is crucial, it is unclear whether these changes would improve local responses to homelessness.

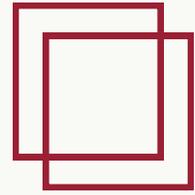
S.B. 78

HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS PROTECTION AMENDMENTS

Sen. Plumb | Rep. Clancy

This bill creates an ombudsman position within the Office of Homeless Services. This position will investigate client complaints against service providers, train public agencies and services providers on client rights and privileges, and develop educational materials for public use. This addition will expand oversight to cover cases in which clients may not have had an avenue to pursue recourse and may improve understanding and awareness of client rights and privileges among services providers and public agencies.

HOMELESSNESS HOUSING AFFORDABILITY



These bills address pathways to affordable, sustainable housing. This includes changes to the requirements and incentive structures impacting municipal and county development strategies as well as changes to the eviction process.

H.B. 37

UTAH HOUSING AMENDMENTS

Rep. Dunnigan | Sen. Fillmore

This bill introduces a framework to support moderate-income affordable housing opportunities. First, it creates tools for municipalities to increase density and ensure that units are used to meet affordable housing needs. Next, the bill requires the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget to develop a state housing plan by the end of the year, aligned with the Governor’s strategic plan and Commission on Housing Affordability priorities and strategies.

H.B. 266

VETERAN HOUSING AMENDMENTS

Rep. Dailey-Provost | Sen. Musselman

This bill requires the state Homeless Board and Department of Veterans and Military Affairs to work together to establish best practices for helping veterans avoid homelessness.

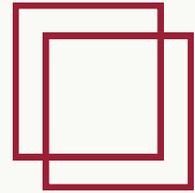
H.B. 360

HOUSING ATTAINABILITY AMENDMENTS

Rep. Whyte | Sen. Fillmore

This bill allows first- and second-class cities to utilize funds from the Utah Homes Investment Program to rehabilitate single-family homes. Those homes are then price-capped based on the State’s “attainable home” definition (currently \$450K, Section 63H-8-501) and must be owner-occupied for at least five years. The bill also allows the Department of Transportation to sell surplus property to another state agency or independent entity (e.g. Utah Housing Corporation) to be used for affordable housing development.

HOMELESSNESS HOUSING AFFORDABILITY



H.B. 480

LANDLORD COMMUNICATION AMENDMENTS

Rep. Shallenberger | Sen. Musselman

This bill removes judicial discretion in eviction proceedings to extend the 3-day pay or vacate period without landlord consent. This reduction in flexibility may lead to a higher eviction rate in some cases.

H.C.R. 14

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STREAMLINING UTAH HOUSING POLICIES

Rep. Whyte | Sen. Fillmore

This bill expresses a commitment on behalf of the state legislature to more efficiently and effectively address barriers to attainable home ownership and implement recommendations from the 2023 housing policy audit. The resolution focuses on home ownership and does not articulate how other housing modalities (e.g. affordable rental, permanent supportive housing, target population set-asides) can contribute to improving access to affordable housing statewide.

S.B. 23

FIRST HOME INVESTMENT ZONE AMENDMENTS

Rep. Whyte | Sen. Fillmore

This bill changes the way that Area Median Income (AMI) is calculated for the purposes of defining “affordable housing” in state code. The bill establishes that the county, rather than the municipality, in which a unit is located will determine whether it is considered affordable by this standard. The bill also creates some flexibility for municipalities in order to support achieving First Home Investment Zone (FHIZ) objectives. Finally, the bill adjusts how extraterritorial homes are counted with respect to FHIZ goals.

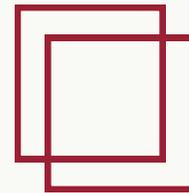
S.B. 262

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY MODIFICATIONS

Sen. Fillmore | Rep. Whyte

This bill creates a program administered by the Department of Workforce Services to provide up to \$150,000 mortgage loans to non-profits to assist with construction costs or obtaining property insurance. It also creates process for legislative bodies to mediate land use disputes.

HOMELESSNESS COMMUNITY HEALTH



These bills focus on access to behavioral and physical health care, especially for individuals experiencing homelessness. Included in this category are bills that impact the civil commitment process as well as changes to the ways that care is provided in carceral settings.

H.B. 14

EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL AMENDMENTS

Rep. Thurston | Sen. Fillmore

This bill allows licensed emergency medical service personnel to provide care in non-911 situations. This change will reduce emergency calls while ensuring people receive the care they need.

H.B. 39

CORRECTIONAL HEALTH AMENDMENTS

Rep. Eliason | Sen. Sandall

This bill requires DHHS to contract telehealth psychiatric services to consult on inmate care and creates a work group to study the need for a new electronic health records system. This bill requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to report to the interim committee on inmates' healthcare access. Next, the bill requires contracting with psychiatrists for staffing needs. It requires DOC, DHHS, and local mental health authorities to coordinate care for offenders, engaging community-based services to enhance connectivity from prison to the community. Finally, the coordination with the local mental health authority includes services planning for habitual offenders, including involuntary commitment, assisted outpatient treatment, or an assertive community treatment team (ACT) at least 3 months before release or the end of parole.

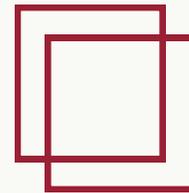
H.B. 56

CIVIL COMMITMENT MODIFICATIONS

Rep. Eliason | Sen. Weiler

This bill facilitates communication and coordination when an individual is released from temporary involuntary commitment. It addresses implementation challenges that arose from a set of 2024 changes and ensures that sensitive client information is protected.

HOMELESSNESS COMMUNITY HEALTH



H.B. 276

COMMITMENT REVISIONS

Rep. Abbott | Sen. Vickers

This bill amends the language to define a person with an intellectual disability, tying it directly to the American Psychiatric Association's most recent definition. It establishes a patient's right to fair access to resources and services within an inpatient facility. It also establishes a set of patient civil rights and delineates the information required to provide while in inpatient care. Lastly, this bill establishes that the designated examiner will be expected to remotely examine the patient and the court hearing will be virtual unless good cause can be shown to do so in person.

H.B. 347

SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Rep. Dunnigan | Sen. Vickers

This bill modifies the state licensure process for mental health and substance use providers if a provider is nationally accredited. Additionally, the provider must meet the criteria, submit accreditation documentation for the state's licensure process, pay fees, and maintain good standing to qualify. This change aimed to lessen the administrative burden for nationally accredited providers. The department can revoke a provider's license if noncompliance or incident warrants a moderate to high-risk violation or does not maintain and provide accreditation documentation. Next, this bill establishes an "atypical antipsychotic" drug list and clarifies that Medicaid will pay for those drugs if specific criteria are met. Finally, this bill appropriates \$1.3 million towards behavioral health and homeless services, including \$450,000 one-time and \$150,000 ongoing for an Odyssey House substance use transitional housing program in Salt Lake County and \$100,000 one-time for medical respite and end-of-life care for homeless individuals.

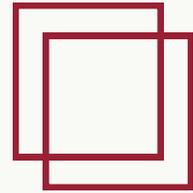
S.B. 48

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AMENDMENTS

Sen. McKell | Rep. Clancy

This bill establishes a "Mental Health Professional Education and Enforcement Fund" to collect administrative penalties, earn interest, support education, training, and investigation into violations, or provide legal representation. Lastly, the bill expands the definition of "mental health therapist" to better align with current best practices.

HOMELESSNESS COMMUNITY HEALTH



S.B. 65

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT AMENDMENTS

Sen. Plumb | Rep. Eliason

This bill requires the Office of Licensing to establish and enforce rules in medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in residential treatment programs and recovery residences. The MAT rules require that a treatment center (1) accept a person prescribed on MAT and (2) allow an individual to begin MAT if prescribed. This requirement only applies to non-profit and publicly funded programs. Salt Lake County Behavioral Health network providers already meet this requirement.

S.B. 134

HEALTH CARE DECISIONS ACT AMENDMENTS

Sen. McKell | Rep. Teuscher

This bill moves the existing code into the Uniform Health Care Decisions Act. Additionally, it establishes rules for mental health care directives, limits patient decision-making by providers, and limits health care decisions liability. Finally, the bill cleans up the mental health directive code not contained in the Act.

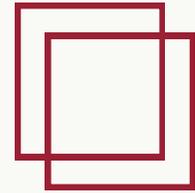
S.B. 297

CONGREGATE CARE AMENDMENTS

Sen. McKell | Rep. Snider

This bill creates the Congregate Care Advisory Committee of eight members to set minimum operational standards, policies, and procedures for congregate care facilities. Additionally, the bill establishes a congregate care ombudsman to investigate consumer complaints of congregate care facilities. Lastly, this bill creates the “Licensed Provider Civil Money Penalty Fund,” which moves federal civil penalty money to accrue interest for the department to allocate funding towards assisting individuals affected by a facility shutdown or allowable administrative activities.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE OVERVIEW



What passed?

Pre-Trial Process

- Among **other restrictions**, H.B. 312 prohibits **overcrowding release** and **release on recognizance** for individuals arrested for **fentanyl possession** or who have been previously **booked** in the same jail in the **past year**.
- H.B. 562 **reinstates** a **monetary bail** schedule and requires judges to **consider flight risk** and **ability to pay** when assigning bail. It also requires **no bail holds** for **potential habitual offenders** arrested for felonies.
- S.B. 157 supports **juveniles** utilizing **non-judicial adjustments** to **avoid** facing **formal charges** by participating in a **supervision program**.
- S.B. 286 and S.J.R. 3 allow an individual to **withdraw a plea** via **direct appeal**, **expediting** the process and **improving access to representation**.

Immigration Enforcement

- H.B. 226 will trigger potential **deportation** for **individuals with legal status** who serve the **maximum sentence** for most **Class A misdemeanors**.
- S.B. 90 introduces a **mandatory sentence** and **facilitates deportation** for individuals previously convicted of a **similar crime** and **unlawful reentry**.

What did not pass?

Judicial Independence

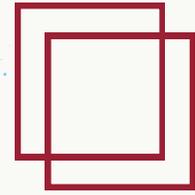
- Several proposed bills would have added **legislative** and **executive influence** over the state **judiciary** branch. **S.B. 296**, which would have allowed the **Governor** to **appoint** the Supreme Court **Chief Justice**, was **vetoed**.

Salt Lake County Jail Update

To comply with **new H.B. 312 requirements**, Salt Lake County will implement the following **changes**:

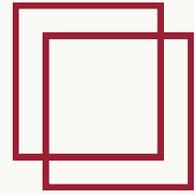
- Retail **sales tax increase** (0.2%)
- Increased **bed capacity** at Oxbow
- **End** State Hospital contract for **competency restoration** beds
- Explore **alternatives** to **overcrowding releases**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS



ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ONGOING	ONE-TIME	AREA
<i>Prison Operations & Maintenance</i>	Support increased operational costs		\$ 6,500,000	Corrections
<i>Prison Overtime Pay</i>	Support training time for new employees		\$ 2,000,000	Corrections
<i>Correctional Healthcare</i>	Fund personnel, materials, and medication		\$ 5,000,000	Corrections
<i>H.B. 167 Offender Reintegration Amendments</i>	Reentry and Reintegration Fund to support education, training, housing assistance, health care, and case worker services		\$ 2,000,000	Corrections
<i>Attorney General Retention & Capacity</i>	Salary increases and new positions	\$ 4,100,000		Criminal Justice
<i>Juror, Witness, & Interpreter Program</i>	Improve availability of court interpreters to reduce bottlenecks	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 450,000	Criminal Justice
<i>Highway Patrol Officers</i>	Increase number of troopers	\$ 1,300,000		Criminal Justice
<i>H.B. 312 Criminal Justice Amendments</i>	Criminal code adjustments, jail contracting, and pre-trial release revisions	\$ 1,700,000		Criminal Justice
<i>Fentanyl Interdiction Personnel & Equipment</i>	Increase units deployed to interstate corridors	\$ 830,000	\$ 950,000	Drug Enforcement
<i>H.B. 323 Correctional Drug Enforcement Amendments</i>	Address drug distribution and use in Utah prisons	\$ 250,000	\$ 50,000	Drug Enforcement
<i>H.B. 87 Drug Trafficking Amendments</i>	Cost increase associated with enhanced fentanyl penalties	\$ 160,000		Drug Enforcement
<i>H.B. 40 School Safety Amendments</i>	Grants for school safety improvements and administrative costs		\$ 25,000,000	School Safety
Total		\$ 9,840,000	\$ 41,950,000	All

CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEGAL PROCESS



These bills concern the internal mechanisms of the criminal justice system. They affect what the law says and how laws are implemented and enforced. Additionally, bills in this category impact how individuals move through the criminal justice process and can include new requirements on public agencies and system administrators.

H.B. 87

DRUG TRAFFICKING AMENDMENTS

Rep. Gwynn | Sen. Brammer

This bill creates a 1st-degree felony for trafficking 100g or more of fentanyl or an analog. This crime covers production, distribution, and possession with intent to distribute as long as the amount of fentanyl-containing substance is over 100g. This bill also limits judicial discretion in these cases, restricting the court from granting probation, suspending a sentence (in most cases), ordering hospitalization, or entering into a judgment for a lower-category offense if doing so would result in a shorter sentence. Taken together, these changes will likely cause an increase in the State prison population and may impact prosecution, defense, and District Court caseloads.

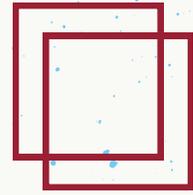
H.B. 226

CRIMINAL AMENDMENTS

Rep. Pierucci | Sen. McCay

This bill requires county jail officials to include immigration status information with each probable cause statement. It also shifts the maximum sentence length for most Class A misdemeanors from 364 days to 1 year, reversing a change made in 2019. This change triggers deportation for legal permanent residents and other individuals with legal status. Additionally, this bill requires jail and prison authorities to notify and coordinate with federal immigration authorities when releasing individuals who are eligible for deportation.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEGAL PROCESS



H.B. 312

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AMENDMENTS

Rep. Lisonbee | Sen. Brammer

This bill restricts who can be released from jail before a court hearing. It focuses on criminal justice high utilizers and expands the “habitual offender” definition to include misdemeanor convictions and charges. Criminal justice system administrators have expressed concerns about increased justice involvement for individuals experiencing homelessness and/or behavioral health challenges. More time in jail and harsher penalties may interrupt treatment, employment, and housing eligibility and create barriers to successful diversion and reentry. County jail facilities will require additional funding to expand capacity to meet the anticipated volume increase.

H.B. 354

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REVISIONS

Rep. Wilcox | Sen. Cullimore

This bill introduces new data collection and sharing requirements between law enforcement agencies and other criminal justice system actors. First, it extends prosecutorial time reporting requirements in counties of the 2nd and 3rd class. Next, the bill requires law enforcement officers to be equipped with portable biometric capture devices by 2027. This bill also requires prosecutors to report on instances when an individual was criminally charged for making a false accusation. In addition, it requires reporting on cases when charges were not filed based on insufficient evidence, a victim was unable to participate, or evidence that a crime was not committed. These reporting requirements are ambiguous, which may limit the usability of the resulting data.

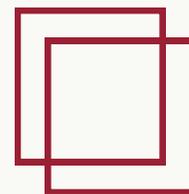
H.B. 562

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AMENDMENTS

Rep. Lisonbee | Sen. Weiler

This bill re-establishes a monetary bail schedule and requires judges to consider failure to appear risk and ability to pay when assigning bail. It also clarifies that a “no bail hold” is the same as a “pretrial status order” that denies release and requires judges to make factual findings of danger or risk of flight when issuing such orders. The bill also mandates a no-bail hold for potential “habitual offenders” arrested for felonies. The bill clarifies the pretrial process to ensure orders are supported by adequate findings of fact. Additionally, the bill requires a judge to make a good-faith effort to find another judge to conduct a detention hearing if the hearing cannot be held within 14 days of an individual’s first appearance. Last, this bill prevents a court from changing a pretrial status order to a no-bail hold based only on a failure to appear. Collectively, these provisions may contribute to increased financial burdens for defendants and re-entering individuals. Additionally, more individuals may face mandatory no-bail holds due to potential habitual offender status.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEGAL PROCESS



S.B. 90

MANDATORY JAIL SENTENCE AMENDMENTS

Sen. Musselman | Rep. Jack

This bill creates a mandatory jail sentence for individuals who have been previously convicted for controlled substance distribution, theft, or retail theft and have been previously convicted for reentry after being deported. This change will increase sentence length for a small subset of individuals and will trigger and facilitate the deportation of those individuals with convictions for Class A misdemeanors or above.

S.B. 286

CRIMINAL PLEA WITHDRAWAL AMENDMENTS

Sen. Pitcher | Rep. Hawkins

This bill gives defendants the right to move to withdraw their plea via direct appeal rather than through a post-conviction proceeding. This change will likely expedite the process and improve defendant access to representation. It is accompanied by S.J.R. 10, which amends Court Rule 11 to be consistent with this change.

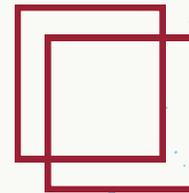
S.J.R. 3

JOINT RESOLUTION DISSOLVING SALT LAKE COUNTY JUSTICE COURT

Sen. Cullimore | Rep. Teushcer

This bill authorizes Salt Lake County to dissolve its Justice Court, which has seen caseloads shifting to municipal Justice Courts. This change allows Salt Lake County to distribute resources to programs and services that more equitably serve residents. Representatives of the judiciary have expressed a concern that this approach will be applied in other countries to shift the burden of responsibility onto District Courts.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE & RE-ENTRY



These bills focus on where the criminal justice system interfaces with the community. Key issues include crisis response and reentry, with an additional focus on coordination between law enforcement and other system stakeholders.

H.B. 14

EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL AMENDMENTS

Rep. Thurston | Sen. Fillmore

This bill allows emergency medical personnel to provide care consistent with their training outside of 911 contexts. This change allows greater flexibility in the employment and utilization of these individuals and may help address workforce bottlenecks and help providers respond consistently to individuals in crisis.

H.B. 49

JUROR ELIGIBILITY AMENDMENTS

Rep. Ballard | Sen. Owens

This bill creates an additional opportunity for individuals with previous felony convictions to serve on a jury. Previously, this could only happen if the felony conviction was expunged. This bill establishes that reducing the felony conviction to a misdemeanor is also sufficient. Though small, this change may help some individuals reintegrate into their communities by opening up an avenue of civic participation.

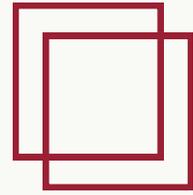
H.B. 167

OFFENDER REINTEGRATION REQUIREMENTS

Rep. Clancy | Sen. Pitcher

This bill supports successful reentry by increasing collaboration between public agencies and reducing employment barriers. First, it requires local mental health authorities to coordinate with the Department of Corrections as much as possible to ensure continuity of care for individuals on probation or parole. It also directs Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils to identify strategies to connect reentering individuals with housing, employment, and health care opportunities. Next, the bill prohibits potential employers from discriminating against applicants based on an expunged conviction or juvenile offense. Finally, the bill appropriates \$2 million, one-time, into a new Rehabilitation and Reentry Services fund, which will be used to support education, training, housing assistance, health care, and caseworker services.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE & RE-ENTRY



H.B. 199

SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT AND ENFORCEMENT AMENDMENTS

Rep. Clancy | Sen. Brammer

This bill equips and encourages first responders to make on-scene referrals. It also adds data reporting requirements for syringe exchange programs and substance use treatment providers and prohibits syringe exchange programs from operating at homeless shelters and permanent supportive housing developments. Last, the bill adds language targeting locations where drug use or distribution is occurring, adding criminal and civil provisions implicating property owners and managers.

H.B. 224

INMATE REENTRY, FINANCES, AND DEBT MODIFICATIONS

Rep. Ballard | Sen. McKell

This bill aims to consolidate state debts owed by justice-involved individuals and facilitate successful reentry. Starting January 1, 2027, county jails will be required to share debt information with the Department of Corrections, which will compile a list of each individual's outstanding debts and provide bi-weekly status updates. The bill also clarifies the duties of the Department's reentry division, which now include individualized risk and need screening, case management, and education.

H.B. 491

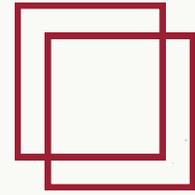
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MODIFICATIONS

Rep. Eliason | Sen. Vickers

This bill streamlines licensing for behavioral health receiving centers, including the new Salt Lake County Crisis Care Center. It also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to survey law enforcement agencies statewide to create a public registry of agencies available to receive a voluntarily committed firearm. Additionally, this bill appropriates approximately \$1 million, ongoing, to support suicide prevention and increased Medicaid rates for peer support specialists and mobile crisis outreach teams. This bill originally contained a larger set of behavioral health funding items based on Behavioral Health Commission recommendations, but many were not adopted in the final budget.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

JUVENILES & YOUTH



These bills specifically impact juveniles (under 18) and youth (18-25). Bills in this category include changes to the juvenile justice process as well as changes to school safety protocols.

H.B. 38

CRIMINAL OFFENSES MODIFICATIONS

Rep. Wilcox | Sen. Musselman

This bill lowers the group enhancement threshold from 4 to 3, increases penalties for gang recruitment of minors, and increases penalties for some theft crimes. Law enforcement expects to see a reduction in gang recruitment activities around schools, and juvenile defense expressed concerns that the broad use of group enhancements will unnecessarily penalize non-gang-related youth and juvenile behaviors.

H.B. 40

SCHOOL SAFETY AMENDMENTS

Rep. Wilcox | Sen. Millner

This bill introduces new school safety requirements and addresses implementation challenges with the school guardian program. First, it clarifies bullet-proof window requirements and adds July 1, 2035, as a compliance deadline for schools in Salt Lake County. The bill also requires that schools install a universal access key box at all main entry points. Next, it adds several members to the State School Security Task Force and adds a study of cybersecurity standards to its list of responsibilities. It also requires that the county sheriff's security chief coordinate with local law enforcement in administering school guardian training. In addition, the bill requires school guardians to complete a "fit to carry" assessment by the Department of Health and Human Services and comply with mental health screening requirements. Finally, this bill appropriates \$25 million, one-time, to support grants for school safety improvements and cover administration costs.

H.B. 104

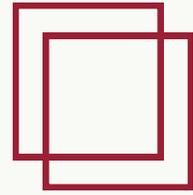
FIREARM SAFETY IN SCHOOLS AMENDMENTS

Rep. Shipp | Sen. Winterton

This bill requires schools to provide firearm safety training (e.g. safe handling and storage) at least three times between Kindergarten and 6th grade, once in middle school, and once in high school. Youth advocates and public health experts have expressed concerns over this requirement, citing numerous studies showing that such programs do not produce a measurable change in children's behavior.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

JUVENILES & YOUTH



S.B. 157

NONJUDICIAL ADJUSTMENT AMENDMENTS

Sen. Pitcher | Rep. Wilcox

This bill ensures that minors have a chance to talk to a defense lawyer before they decide whether to enter into a nonjudicial adjustment. This practice has been shown to reduce juvenile justice involvement in the long term and uses fewer resources than the traditional process. A Salt Lake County pilot program indicated that minors are very likely to opt into a nonjudicial adjustment once they have had a chance to meet with defense counsel.

S.B. 171

INDIGENT DEFENSE AMENDMENTS

Sen. Weiler | Rep. Clancy

Based on a set of recommendations from a 2024 Galt Center report, this bill creates a fund to support youth indigent defense services in rural counties. The idea is that counties will pay into a central fund, which will be managed by the Indigent Defense Commission to streamline and centralize juvenile indigent defense in counties with low caseloads. This approach takes advantage of economies of scale and may lead to more efficient use of limited funding.

S.B. 249

STUDENT INTEGRATION AMENDMENTS

Sen. Cullimore | Rep. Roberts

This bill allows schools to refuse to integrate students who have been accused or convicted of certain violent crimes. The school district would then be required to offer alternative education options. Juvenile justice stakeholders have expressed concerns that this change would limit reintegration and diversion efforts leading to increased justice involvement for these individuals over time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The Office of Homelessness and Criminal Justice Reform is grateful for the time and energy our partners contributed—both in navigating the legislative session and in preparing this report. The vastness of our subject matter is matched only by the enormity of the task ahead of us. Systematic solutions to the problems at hand are possible, but they will require years of careful planning, investment, and a willingness to learn. Along the way, the Office will stand by the community members, service providers, public administrators, and elected leaders doing their part to bring positive policy change and program funding to Salt Lake County.

Special thanks to:

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Salt Lake County Criminal Justice Services
Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office
Salt Lake County Housing & Community Development
Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office
Salt Lake Legal Defender Association
Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys

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