

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 6 • FEBRUARY 8-12, 2021



WEEK 4 OF THE 2021 GENERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

For the first time in state history, legislators and the public are participating in the legislative session in person and virtually. You can watch committee meetings and floor time live at le.utah.gov.

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Utah House
Republicans



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Utah House of
Representatives

Chris Stewart Visits Caucus



Each session, we look forward to visiting with our congressional delegation. This week, Congressman Chris Stewart visited the House Majority Caucus. We discussed his role in D.C. and how we can best support one another in fulfilling our duties to represent the people of Utah.

VACCINE VOLUNTEERS

Governor Cox and Lieutenant Governor Henderson announced their goal to have all adult Utahns receive the COVID-19 vaccine by the end of May. In tackling this goal, there is a large need for willing and able volunteers. Click [here](#) to volunteer for this project and see if you qualify.



MENTAL HEALTH

This week the House Health and Human Services Committee passed HB 288 Education and Mental Health Coordinating Council. This bill creates a new council of educators, mental and behavioral health experts and other advocates to advise the Governor and the Legislature. The council will provide action-oriented guidance to state leaders on how to meet the behavioral and mental health needs of children and family in our state.

TAX RELIEF

Several bills are making their way through the legislative process that will provide tax relief to many Utahns. Last week, H.B. 86 Social Security Amendments passed the House unanimously and if passed by the Senate, will benefit many living on a fixed income. Additionally, H.B. 161 Military Retirement Tax Amendments passed the House this week, which removes the tax on military retirement, benefiting those who have served our country. Finally, a bill is in the works to help restore the child dependent exemption.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

HB 82 Single Family Housing Amendments . This bill passed out of the House Business and Labor Committee this week. This bill, sponsored by Representative Ray Ward, helps increase housing availability and relieve pressure on prices by decreasing regulations in housing.

FRESHMAN HIGHLIGHT

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON ABBOTT

Newly elected to District 60, Representative Nelson Abbott is passionate about helping those with mental health issues and pushing for tax cuts. He has a B.A. IN Economics from BYU as well as his JD and MBA from BYU where he now works as an adjunct professor aside from being a small business owner running “Abbott Law Firm”. In his free time he loves to snow ski and water ski, fly RC planes, scuba dive and spend time with his 4 kids and 2 grandkids.



Sarah's Bill

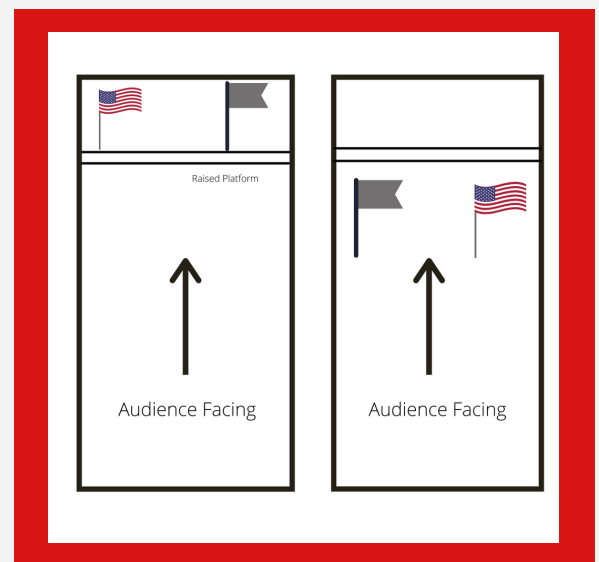
This week, we had the pleasure of welcoming Sarah Frei and her parents to the House Floor. Sarah was involved in a car accident over the summer, resulting in the loss of her legs. Sarah's optimistic outlook is truly inspiring. HB 20 Driving Under the Influence Sentencing Amendments, nicknamed "Sarah's Bill," will create stricter bail terms for DUI offenses.



Flag Display

The U.S. Flag Code is the governing document that provides official guidance on all things to do with the American Flag, including the manner of display and instructions on how the flag is not to be used. The code does not contain any penalties for being out of compliance, but there are a couple of basics that are good to know/follow.

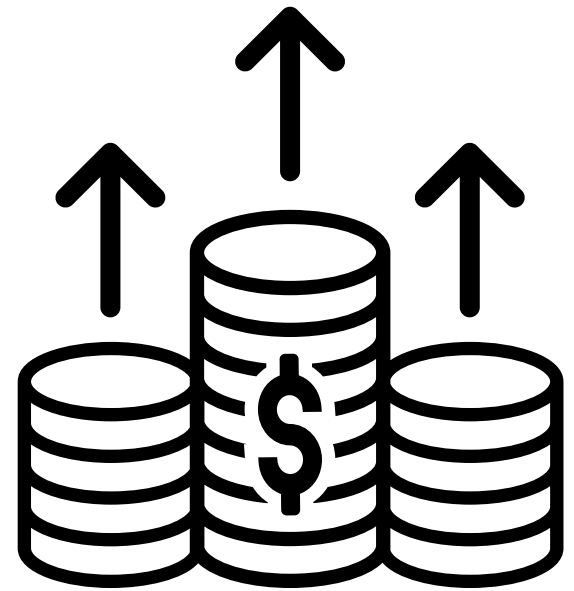
1. The flag must always be displayed to its own right. (In your office If it is behind your desk, it should be to your right, if it is in front of your desk, the flag should be to your left.)
2. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union (blue field of stars) should be in the upper right corner (to the observer's left).
3. The flag should always be falling free, don't fasten or tie it back.
4. When displaying flags with crossed staves, the flag should be to its own right (observer's left) and crossed in front of the other flag's staff.



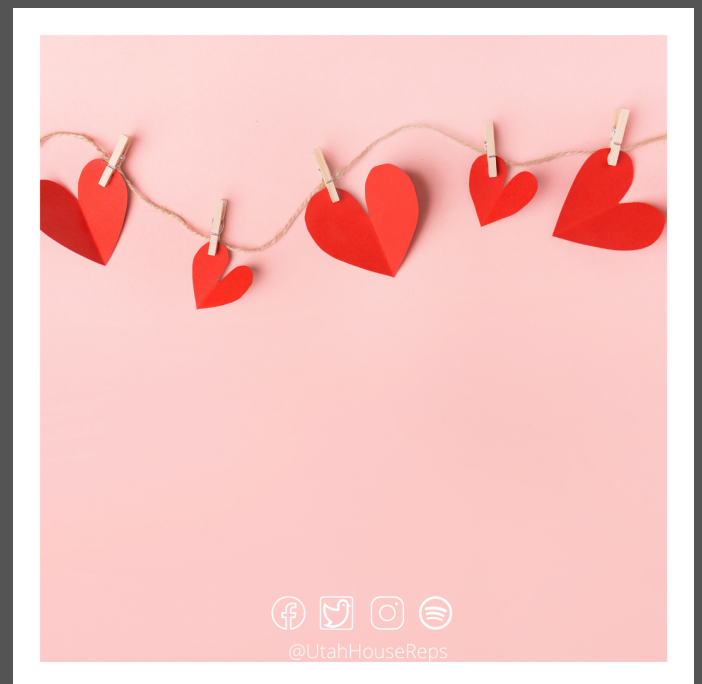
As a note - if you or your districts have a flag that needs to be retired, please contact your local veteran's organizations (like the American Legion) as they often have official flag retirement ceremonies.

Podcast- Economic Development Incentives

Utah's economic growth has been incredible these last few decades, but that growth and economic strength are far from reaching their peak. Representative Hawkes joins us on the show this week to talk about more ways Utah is staging itself to be the country's economic leader. Listen here!



Wishing you a Happy Valentine's Day and President's Day!



BILLS PASSED THIS WEEK

AS OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, THE HOUSE HAS PASSED 57 BILLS. HERE ARE THE BILLS THAT PASSED THIS WEEK:

H.B. 26 24-7 Sobriety Program Expansion
H.B. 55 Marriage Commission Amendments
H.B. 58 Riot Amendments
H.B. 59 Intimate Image Distribution Prohibition Revisions
H.B. 64 Factual Innocence Payments Amendments
H.B. 65 Wildland Fire Amendments
H.B. 83 Migratory Bird Production Area Amendments
H.B. 84 Use of Force Reporting Requirements
H.B. 87 Electronic Information and Data Privacy Amendments
H.B. 95 Prison Rape Elimination Act Compliance
H.B. 103 Retaliation and Obstruction of Justice Amendments
H.B. 107 Subdivision Plat Amendments
H.B. 109 Wildlife Amendments
H.B. 136 Initiative and Referenda Modifications
H.B. 137 Large Vehicle Registration Amendments
H.B. 147 Revenge Porn Amendments
H.B. 155 Civil Commitment Amendments
H.B. 158 Juvenile Interrogation Amendments
H.B. 159 Higher Education Speech
H.B. 161 Military Retirement Tax Amendments
H.B. 162 Peace Officer Training Amendments
H.B. 170 Vehicle Registration Renewal Notice Requirements
H.B. 172 Facility of Payment to Minor Amendments
H.B. 175 Risk Management Settlement Authority Amendments
H.B. 178 Pharmacy Practice Modifications
H.B. 185 Laboratory Equipment Amendments
H.B. 186 Criminal Nonsupport Amendments
H.B. 188 State Stone Designation
H.B. 190 Interstate Compact on Curing Diseases
H.B. 191 Adoption Amendments
H.B. 193 Intimate Image Distribution Prohibition
H.B. 211 Initiatives and Referenda Amendments

H.B. 226 Long-term Care Patient and Consumer Rights Protection
H.B. 228 Jail Photo Distribution Prohibition
H.B. 238 Marriage Amendments
H.B. 239 Online Impersonation Prohibition
H.B. 241 Utah Seeds Amendments
H.B. 244 First Class County Highway Road Funds Amendments
H.B. 252 State Pay Plan Amendments
H.B. 278 Name Change Process for Dixie State University
H.C.R. 8 Concurrent Resolution on Education
H.C.R. 12 Concurrent Resolution Encouraging Cooperative Action Regarding National Monuments
S.B. 13 Law Enforcement Internal Investigation Requirements
S.B. 32 Employee Status Amendments
S.B. 38 K-9 Policy Requirements
S.B. 41 Mental Health Access Amendments
S.B. 57 Executive Residence Commission Amendments
S.B. 60 Accident Reports Amendments
S.B. 64 Domestic Violence Amendments
S.B. 69 Accident Report Amendments
S.B. 72 Open and Public Meetings Amendments
S.B. 87 Professional Licensing Amendments
S.B. 101 Motor Vehicle Amendments
S.C.R. 1 Concurrent Resolution on Holocaust Education
S.J.R. 5 Joint Rules Resolution -- Legislation Amendments
S.J.R. 6 Joint Rules Resolution - Concurrent and Joint Resolution Modifications
S.J.R. 7 Joint Resolution Approving Energy Solutions Constructing and Operating a Landfill for Nonhazardous Solid Waste