Volume 1 Issue 16

# UTRSOL WEEKLY

*Utah for Rational Sex Offense Laws*
Week of October 19 – October 23, 2026

*This week, the Judiciary Interim Committee began its review of the 2027 sentencing guidelines package, we sent our victim services funding report to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee, we presented to UDC's Second Chance Employer Network, The Hive, and we published three new pieces on News From The Wire. Here's the rundown, track by track.*

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

On Tuesday, October 20, the Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee heard budget materials that included a possible increase to the probation and parole supervision fee. The subcommittee took no action and held the item for the 2027 General Session. The chair asked staff for inflation figures, other states' practices, and whether Utah should index the fee. One member asked how many people on supervision cannot pay the fee today, a question the materials did not answer. We covered the hearing in News From The Wire, including how a higher fee would add to other recent charges for people on the registry.

## JUDICIARY INTERIM COMMITTEE: SENTENCING GUIDELINES

The Judiciary Interim Committee took up the 2027 sentencing guidelines package on Wednesday, October 21, the week after we sent Publication 2026-63 to every committee member. Corrections staff walked the committee through how the department built its cost estimate. The committee took no vote and is expected to consider a recommendation at its next meeting on November 18, where we plan to provide public comment. The Sentencing Commission is also accepting written public comment on the guidelines through Sunday, November 1.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION ASSESSMENT STUDY

The Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (LECJ) Interim Committee met on October 21, but its presentation of the 2026 Victim Services Study did not take place and has moved to the committee's November 18 meeting. Ahead of the original hearing, we sent committee members Publication 2026-64, Platform Penalties for Victim Services, on October 19. The report builds on the proposal we sent to Rep. Ken Ivory on October 5. It suggests directing penalties Utah already collects from technology platforms over harm to children, beginning with the $5 million Aylo settlement and a share of the $212 million Meta settlement, to victim services as a supplement to base funding, with no new fees on individuals and no reduction in restitution owed to specific victims. We plan to provide public comment at the November 18 meeting, at the chair's discretion.

## SEX OFFENSE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SOMAC)

On Wednesday, October 21, UTRSOL followed the Sex Offense Management Advisory Committee's meeting, where members continued work on a strategic plan ahead of the 2027 General Session. The committee's director said she will circulate a first draft before the committee's next meeting on Wednesday, November 18, which will be held virtually from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. We are preparing input on the draft with our Clinical Research Work Group and plan to submit it in early November, ahead of the draft's circulation, so that it can be considered before the plan takes shape. We will keep following the committee's work.

## BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLE ENGAGEMENT

Lisa Crawford's appointment to the Board of Pardons and Parole went before the Senate Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Confirmation Committee on Monday, October 19. The committee voted to give a favorable recommendation. The next step is the full Senate vote likely within the next week where Ms. Crawford would then be confirmed as the next full-time Board Member. With the committee's decision made, this closes our reporting on the appointment.

## EDUCATION POLICY: USBE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

We are continuing to work on our second memorandum to the Utah State Board of Education on evidentiary standards and are planning its delivery for Monday, November 2. The Board meets on Thursday, November 5, at 9:00 a.m. To speak, email publiccomment@schools.utah.gov by Thursday, October 29 with your name and a request to comment. Written statements may be sent to the same address, and anyone unsure about taking part is welcome to email communications@utrsol.org.

## EMPLOYMENT: THE HIVE WORKFORCE EXCHANGE

On Wednesday, October 21, UTRSOL presented "Bridging the Gap" to UDC's Second Chance Employer Network, The Hive Workforce Exchange. The presentation argued that for people on the registry, the barrier is usually not qualifications or job readiness but what happens after an offer is made, when a background check closes the door. We proposed a confidential, opt-in referral network, with introductions only to employers who have agreed in advance and never a public list. We asked for coordination with the Department of Workforce Services on hiring incentives such as the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and potential collaboration with UDC to bring our resources into employment classes UDC staff teach inside facilities.

## NEWS FROM THE WIRE

We published three new pieces on News From The Wire this week. On Monday, A Policy That Cuts Against Itself, Funding the Fallout followed up on our earlier look at a Salt Lake City contract cut that furloughed workers at a second-chance employer. It sets that cut beside the opening of the state's ARCH Project and a Salt Lake County proposal to expand the jail. It argues that cutting the jobs that keep people stable, while funding programs and facilities to manage the homelessness and incarceration that follow, means paying twice.

On Tuesday, Utah Weighs Probation & Parole Fee Increase for the 2027 Session reported on the October 20 Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee hearing. It covers what the subcommittee asked staff to bring back and how a higher supervision fee would stack on top of the registry fee and the interstate transfer fee raised in recent sessions.

And on Wednesday, UTRSOL Joins UDC Advocacy Stakeholders October Meeting recounted our first seat at the Utah Department of Corrections' monthly stakeholder meeting. It focuses on our questions about whether rehabilitation programming listed for contracted county jails under the Inmate Placement Program is actually delivered and how that delivery is verified, and on what that means as the 2027 sentencing guidelines could add more people to those beds. UTRSOL publishes News From The Wire and asked several of the questions reported.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, October 29 — Utah State Board of Education Public Comment Sign-Up Deadline

**November**

- November 1 — Sentencing Commission Public Comment Closes on the 2027 Sentencing Guidelines
- November 3 — Election Day
- November 4 — Weber County Community Reentry Coalition Meeting
- November 5 — Utah State Board of Education Meeting
- November 10 — UDC Advocacy Stakeholders Meeting
- November 18 — Judiciary Interim Committee (Sentencing Guidelines Recommendation)
- November 18 — Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee (Victim Services Study)
- November 18 — Sex Offense Management Advisory Committee Meeting (Virtual)

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