

**ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Todd Weiler**

House Sponsor: Karianne Lisonbee

---

---

**LONG TITLE**

**Committee Note:**

The Judiciary Interim Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 10 voting for 0 voting against 6 absent

**General Description:**

This bill modifies reporting requirements for the attorney general.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ modifies a reporting requirement for the attorney general regarding lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of state law;
- ▶ requires the attorney general to submit a report regarding lawsuits and decisions challenging the constitutionality and enforceability of state statutes; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**36-12-7**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 474

**67-5-1**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapters 225 and 347



28

---

---

29 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

30 Section 1. Section **36-12-7** is amended to read:

31 **36-12-7. Legislative Management Committee -- Duties -- Litigation.**

32 (1) The Senate or House Management Committee shall:

33 (a) receive legislative resolutions directing studies on legislative matters and may  
34 assign these studies to the appropriate interim committee of its house;

35 (b) assign to interim committees of the same house, matters of legislative study not  
36 specifically contained in a legislative resolution but considered significant to the welfare of the  
37 state;

38 (c) receive requests from interim committees of its house for matters to be included on  
39 the study agenda of the requesting committee. Appropriate bases for denying a study include  
40 inadequate funding to properly complete the study or duplication of the work;

41 (d) establish a budget account for interim committee day as designated by Legislative  
42 Management Committee and for all other legislative committees of its house and allocate to  
43 that account sufficient funds to adequately provide for the work of the committee; and

44 (e) designate the time and place for periodic meetings of the interim committees.

45 (2) To maximize the use of legislators' available time, the Senate and House  
46 Management Committees should attempt to schedule the committee meetings of their  
47 respective houses during the same one or two-day period each month. This does not preclude  
48 an interim committee from meeting at any time it determines necessary to complete its  
49 business.

50 (3) The Legislative Management Committee shall:

51 (a) employ, after recommendation of the appropriate subcommittee of the Legislative  
52 Management Committee, without regard to political affiliation, and subject to approval of a  
53 majority vote of both houses, persons qualified for the positions of director of the Office of  
54 Legislative Research and General Counsel, legislative fiscal analyst, legislative general  
55 counsel, and legislative auditor general. Appointments to these positions shall be for terms of  
56 six years subject to renewal under the same procedure as the original appointment. A person  
57 may be removed from any of these offices before the expiration of the person's term only by a  
58 majority vote of both houses of the Legislature or by a two-thirds vote of the management

59 committee for such causes as inefficiency, incompetency, failure to maintain skills or adequate  
60 performance levels, insubordination, misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office. If a  
61 vacancy occurs in any of these offices after adjournment of the Legislature, the committee shall  
62 appoint an individual to fill the vacancy until such time as the person is approved or rejected by  
63 majority vote of the next session of the Legislature;

64 (b) develop policies for personnel management, compensation, and training of all  
65 professional legislative staff;

66 (c) develop a policy within the limits of legislative appropriation for the authorization  
67 and payment to legislators of compensation and travel expenses, including out-of-state travel;

68 (d) approve special study budget requests of the legislative directors; and

69 (e) assist the speaker-elect of the House of Representatives and the president-elect of  
70 the Senate, upon selection by their majority party caucus, to organize their respective houses of  
71 the Legislature and assume the direction of the operation of the Legislature in the forthcoming  
72 annual general session.

73 (4) (a) The Legislature delegates to the Legislative Management Committee the  
74 authority, by means of a majority vote of the committee, to direct the legislative general  
75 counsel in matters involving the Legislature's participation in litigation.

76 (b) The Legislature has an unconditional right to intervene in a state court action and  
77 may provide evidence or argument, written or oral, if a party to that court action challenges:

78 (i) the constitutionality of a state statute;

79 (ii) the validity of legislation; or

80 (iii) any action of the Legislature.

81 (c) In a federal court action that challenges the constitutionality of a state statute, the  
82 validity of legislation, or any action of the Legislature, the Legislature may seek to intervene, to  
83 file an amicus brief, or to present argument in accordance with federal rules of procedure.

84 (d) Intervention by the Legislature pursuant to Subsection (4)(b) or (c) does not limit  
85 the duty of the attorney general to appear and prosecute legal actions or defend state agencies,  
86 officers or employees as otherwise provided by law.

87 (e) In any action in which the Legislature intervenes or participates, legislative counsel  
88 and the attorney general shall function independently from each other in the representation of  
89 their respective clients.

90 (f) The attorney general shall notify the legislative general counsel of a claim in  
91 accordance with Subsection 67-5-1[(24)](25).

92 Section 2. Section 67-5-1 is amended to read:

93 **67-5-1. General duties.**

94 The attorney general shall:

95 (1) perform all duties in a manner consistent with the attorney-client relationship under  
96 Section 67-5-17;

97 (2) except as provided in Sections 10-3-928 and 17-18a-403, attend the Supreme Court  
98 and the Court of Appeals of this state, and all courts of the United States, and prosecute or  
99 defend all causes to which the state or any officer, board, or commission of the state in an  
100 official capacity is a party, and take charge, as attorney, of all civil legal matters in which the  
101 state is interested;

102 (3) after judgment on any cause referred to in Subsection (2), direct the issuance of  
103 process as necessary to execute the judgment;

104 (4) account for, and pay over to the proper officer, all money that comes into the  
105 attorney general's possession that belongs to the state;

106 (5) keep a file of all cases in which the attorney general is required to appear, including  
107 any documents and papers showing the court in which the cases have been instituted and tried,  
108 and whether they are civil or criminal, and:

109 (a) if civil, the nature of the demand, the stage of proceedings, and, when prosecuted to  
110 judgment, a memorandum of the judgment and of any process issued if satisfied, and if not  
111 satisfied, documentation of the return of the sheriff;

112 (b) if criminal, the nature of the crime, the mode of prosecution, the stage of  
113 proceedings, and, when prosecuted to sentence, a memorandum of the sentence and of the  
114 execution, if the sentence has been executed, and, if not executed, the reason for the delay or  
115 prevention; and

116 (c) deliver this information to the attorney general's successor in office;

117 (6) exercise supervisory powers over the district and county attorneys of the state in all  
118 matters pertaining to the duties of ~~their~~ the district and county attorneys' offices, including the  
119 authority to:

120 (a) require a district or county attorney of the state to, upon request, report on the status

121 of public business entrusted to the district or county attorney's charge; or  
122 (b) review investigation results de novo and file criminal charges, if warranted, in any  
123 case involving a first degree felony, if:

124 (i) a law enforcement agency submits investigation results to the county or district  
125 attorney of the jurisdiction where the incident occurred and the county or district attorney:

126 (A) declines to file criminal charges; or  
127 (B) fails to screen the case for criminal charges within six months of the law  
128 enforcement agency's submission of the investigation results; and

129 (ii) after consultation with the county or district attorney of the jurisdiction where the  
130 incident occurred, the attorney general reasonably believes action by the attorney general would  
131 not interfere with an ongoing investigation or prosecution by the county or district attorney of  
132 the jurisdiction where the incident occurred;

133 (7) give the attorney general's opinion in writing and without fee, when required, upon  
134 any question of law relating to the office of the requester:

135 (a) in accordance with Section [67-5-1.1](#), to the Legislature or either house;  
136 (b) to any state officer, board, or commission; and  
137 (c) to any county attorney or district attorney;

138 (8) when required by the public service or directed by the governor, assist any county,  
139 district, or city attorney in the discharge of county, district, or city attorney's duties;

140 (9) purchase in the name of the state, under the direction of the state Board of  
141 Examiners, any property offered for sale under execution issued upon judgments in favor of or  
142 for the use of the state, and enter satisfaction in whole or in part of the judgments as the  
143 consideration of the purchases;

144 (10) when the property of a judgment debtor in any judgment mentioned in Subsection  
145 (9) has been sold under a prior judgment, or is subject to any judgment, lien, or encumbrance  
146 taking precedence of the judgment in favor of the state, redeem the property, under the  
147 direction of the state Board of Examiners, from the prior judgment, lien, or encumbrance, and  
148 pay all money necessary for the redemption, upon the order of the state Board of Examiners,  
149 out of any money appropriated for these purposes;

150 (11) when in the attorney general's opinion it is necessary for the collection or  
151 enforcement of any judgment, institute and prosecute on behalf of the state any action or

152 proceeding necessary to set aside and annul all conveyances fraudulently made by the judgment  
153 debtors, and pay the cost necessary to the prosecution, when allowed by the state Board of  
154 Examiners, out of any money not otherwise appropriated;

155 (12) discharge the duties of a member of all official boards of which the attorney  
156 general is or may be made a member by the Utah Constitution or by the laws of the state, and  
157 other duties prescribed by law;

158 (13) institute and prosecute proper proceedings in any court of the state or of the  
159 United States to restrain and enjoin corporations organized under the laws of this or any other  
160 state or territory from acting illegally or in excess of their corporate powers or contrary to  
161 public policy, and in proper cases forfeit their corporate franchises, dissolve the corporations,  
162 and wind up their affairs;

163 (14) institute investigations for the recovery of all real or personal property that may  
164 have escheated or should escheat to the state, and for that purpose, subpoena any persons  
165 before any of the district courts to answer inquiries and render accounts concerning any  
166 property, examine all books and papers of any corporations, and when any real or personal  
167 property is discovered that should escheat to the state, institute suit in the district court of the  
168 county where the property is situated for its recovery, and escheat that property to the state;

169 (15) administer the Children's Justice Center as a program to be implemented in  
170 various counties pursuant to Sections [67-5b-101](#) through [67-5b-107](#);

171 (16) assist the Constitutional Defense Council as provided in Title 63C, Chapter 4a,  
172 Constitutional and Federalism Defense Act;

173 (17) pursue any appropriate legal action to implement the state's public lands policy  
174 established in Section [63C-4a-103](#);

175 (18) investigate and prosecute violations of all applicable state laws relating to fraud in  
176 connection with the state Medicaid program and any other medical assistance program  
177 administered by the state, including violations of Title 26, Chapter 20, Utah False Claims Act;

178 (19) investigate and prosecute complaints of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of patients  
179 at:

180 (a) health care facilities that receive payments under the state Medicaid program; and

181 (b) board and care facilities, as defined in the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C.  
182 Sec. 1396b(q)(4)(B), regardless of the source of payment to the board and care facility;

183 (20) (a) report at least twice per year to the Legislative Management Committee on any  
184 pending or anticipated lawsuits, other than eminent domain lawsuits, that might:

185 (i) cost the state more than \$500,000; or

186 (ii) require the state to take legally binding action that would cost more than \$500,000  
187 to implement; and

188 (b) if the meeting is closed, include an estimate of the state's potential financial or other  
189 legal exposure in that report;

190 (21) (a) submit a written report to the committees described in Subsection (21)(b) that  
191 summarizes ~~[the status and progress of any lawsuits that challenge the constitutionality of state~~  
192 ~~law that were pending at the time the attorney general submitted]~~ any lawsuit or decision in  
193 which a court or the Office of the Attorney General has determined that a state statute is  
194 unconstitutional or unenforceable since the attorney general's last report under this Subsection  
195 (21), including any:

196 (i) settlements reached or under consideration by the Office of the Attorney General;

197 (ii) consent decrees entered or under consideration by the Office of the Attorney  
198 General; [~~or~~]

199 (iii) judgments issued; [~~and~~]

200 (iv) preliminary injunctions issued;

201 (v) temporary restraining orders issued; or

202 (vi) formal or informal policies of the Office of the Attorney General; and

203 (b) at least 30 days before the Legislature's May and November interim meetings,  
204 submit the report described in Subsection (21)(a) to:

205 (i) the Legislative Management Committee;

206 (ii) the Judiciary Interim Committee; and

207 (iii) the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee;

208 (22) if the attorney general operates the Office of the Attorney General or any portion  
209 of the Office of the Attorney General as an internal service fund agency in accordance with  
210 Section 67-5-4, submit to the rate committee established in Section 67-5-34:

211 (a) a proposed rate and fee schedule in accordance with Subsection 67-5-34(4); and

212 (b) any other information or analysis requested by the rate committee;

213 (23) before the end of each calendar year, create an annual performance report for the

214 Office of the Attorney General and post the report on the attorney general's website;  
215 (24) ensure that any training required under this chapter complies with Title 63G,  
216 Chapter 22, State Training and Certification Requirements;  
217 (25) notify the legislative general counsel in writing within three business days after  
218 the day on which the attorney general is officially notified of a claim, regardless of whether the  
219 claim is filed in state or federal court, that challenges:  
220 (a) the constitutionality of a state statute;  
221 (b) the validity of legislation; or  
222 (c) any action of the Legislature; and  
223 (26) (a) notwithstanding Title 63G, Chapter 6a, Utah Procurement Code, provide a  
224 special advisor to the Office of the Governor and the Office of the Attorney General in matters  
225 relating to Native American and tribal issues to:  
226 (i) establish outreach to the tribes and affected counties and communities; and  
227 (ii) foster better relations and a cooperative framework; and  
228 (b) annually report to the Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriations  
229 Subcommittee regarding:  
230 (i) the status of the work of the special advisor described in Subsection (26)(a); and  
231 (ii) whether the need remains for the ongoing appropriation to fund the special advisor  
232 described in Subsection (26)(a).