

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL DISTRICTS
2018 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (partial list)

1. Procurement Code Cleanup Bill -- It is expected to be a non-controversial, technical Bill.
2. Number of Board Members (odd number not required above 9) – H.B. 417 ran out of time this year. Next year it will be filed early, possibly with a somewhat expanded scope, and should become law without too much difficulty.
3. Clarify the appointment procedure to be followed when the size of a Board of Trustees is expanded as provided in Utah Code Ann. § 17B-1-302(6), and clarify the length of the term of the newly appointed Board members.
4. The time may be right to replace expensive, ineffective newspaper notice requirements with a social media notice requirement or some other notice requirement that is less expensive and more effective.
5. Confusion and concerns have arisen respecting whether service liens that are certified to the County Treasurer pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 17B-1-902 may be included in a tax sale conducted by the County. Legislation may be developed to avoid or at least minimize the confusion on the subject.
6. A Bill was prepared but not introduced last year that would preclude municipalities from “raiding” a pre-existing local district service area.
7. Clarify that statutory fund balance limitations only apply to property taxes and not to mineral lease monies, and that a mosquito abatement district may maintain a reserve fund for extraordinary abatement measurers under Utah Code Ann. § 17B-2a-703(6) in addition to reserve funds allowed by Utah Code Ann. § 17B-1-617.
8. Clarify that a local district that receives property taxes at year end that are intended to provide working capital for the coming 12 months may carry a sufficient amount forward to the new year fund balance, and won't be required to move the money into a capital projects reserve.
9. Allow some latitude respecting the application of rules established by the Utah Division of Finance to board member travel per diem and expenses.
10. Legislation is anticipated from the Transportation Governance and Funding Task Force that may have a significant impact on transit districts, especially the Utah Transit Authority, respecting funding (particularly funding through the state) and governance.
11. The Utah League of Cities and Towns may be contacted respecting a minor modification to the Municipal Code that would clarify that a metro township may own and operate a cemetery.
12. With the advent of cell phones and the internet, and the decline of land lines and traditional telephone directories, Utah Code Ann. § 17B-1-112, which requires that district contact information be published in a local telephone directory, may be repealed and replaced by a requirement that local district management and trustee contact information be available on line.
13. Additional minor local district cleanup items, such as provisions encouraging each local district with an annual operating budget of less than \$50,000 to obtain liability insurance and clarifying the ability of a municipal legislative body to appoint all of the members of a mosquito abatement district board of trustees when the municipality constitutes 75% or more of the district, will be addressed.