

2014 Legislative Bills and Proposals

By Senator Aaron Osmond (District 10) – As of Feb 1, 2014

1. **SB 39 – Home School Amendments.** This bill removes state requirements on parents who chose to homeschool their children. They would no longer have to follow state curriculum and school hours requirements. This bill would also remove the requirement to annually sign an affidavit of homeschooling. This bill also identifies a new placement process for all students who transfer back into public education full time.
2. **SB 42 - Early Education for At-Risk Children.** Under this bill we authorize the funding Early Education Grants for specific at-risk children defined as children who are 3 or 4 years old and are from “intergenerational poverty” families, or children who are economically disadvantage *and* where English is their second language. The bill funds an 8 year pilot at \$6 million per year to provide grants to School Districts who agree to meet 10 key criteria for a High Quality Preschool. It requires schools to partner with private providers where those providers exist. It also funds an “evaluator” to verify the impact of this grant to remove the achievement gap long term and to reduce use of special education.
3. **SB 101 – Public Education Human Resource Management Act Amendments.** Under this bill we are modifying the law I passed in the 2012 session to allow for 1 additional year before the full state school system is required to convert to the new rating and ranking evaluation system (to allow for more training and development time on the new system).
4. **SB 103 - Local Control of Classroom Time.** Under this bill, the state would authorize each school district to use up to 60 hours of a 180 day school year for the purpose of teacher professional development or teacher preparation time without impact to the school’s funding.
5. **SB 104 - Improvement of Reading Instruction.** Under this bill, we add additional funding for the U of U Reading Clinic (providing teacher professional development and individual student intervention for children and Teachers in K-3). This bill also authorizes the expansion of this program with new Reading Clinics in Cedar City and Ogden. It requires the use technology in assisting with reading remediation. Schools must also match the cost of the program and utilize the services of the clinic to provide reading professional development. Total appropriation request is \$975k (\$550k to set up 2 new sites, and \$425k to expand current program in SLC).
6. **SB 109 - Radon Testing for Home Purchase.** Under this bill, sellers of residential property must perform a radon test and provide the results of that test to future buyers.
7. **SB 110 - Guardianship Costs for Parents of Disabled Adult Child.** Under this bill I am trying to reduce or remove the legal cost of a getting legal guardianship a disabled child by a biological parent.
8. **SB 111 - Public Education Equalization Funding for Local Schools.** Under this bill, the state will freeze the Basic Minimum Property Tax Rate. The effect of this freeze is that new revenue will be generated from the increase in property values over time. All new money under this freeze will then be equalized and returned back to the local schools based on last year’s student attendance. The money will be placed directly into the School’s Land Trust Account (to be used and applied by the local community council according to existing state statute).
9. **SB 122 - Parent Accountability in Public Education.** Under this bill, parents are giving a “Bill of Rights” as to the areas where they can have a “reasonable expectation” of accommodation relative to their child’s education. It also requires that parents of children who are non-performing in a subject or who have a C- or less in a class must hold “a” parent teacher conference to review that academic challenge for their child with the teacher.
10. **SB 131 - Student Leadership Grant.** Under this bill, we will re-authorize and expand a grant for schools to build or buy a “student leadership” program for implementation at their local schools. The funding requested is \$500k per year (\$250k more than last year). The program requires a match of any funds by the local school district.

11. **SB 149 - Drowsy Driving Act.** Under this bill we officially add “Drowsy Driving” as an item that can be criminally prosecuted under state code as “Distracted Driving” in the event of an accident. In addition, we establish a certain week of the year as “Drowsy Driver Awareness Week” for the state to promote awareness of the dangers of drowsy driving.
12. **SCR 1 - Resolution Recognizing the 60th Anniversary of Including “In God We Trust” in the Pledge.** Under this resolution we officially recognize that it has been 60 years since Congress approved the inclusion of the words “In God We Trust” in the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States.
13. **SJR 2 - Right to Public Election on Tax Changes.** Under this resolution, a Constitutional Amendment is proposed to allow the Legislature to place potential tax rate changes on the ballot for public approval. These ballot measures would then be legally binding upon public approval through a general election vote.
14. **Bill Proposal – School Security.** Under this bill (which I am working on with students from Copper Hills High School) we are proposing a change in law that will allow School leaders to contact students who are off campus for release time when there is a school shut down or other safety issue. Current, schools are not allow to contact or notice students on release time at all. This has become a safety issue with several incidents in the recent past.
15. **Bill Proposal - ISP Filtering of Sexually Explicit Material.** This is a bill idea only at this point, no bill has yet been drafted. We are investigating the concept of requiring an ISP to pre-filter sexually explicit material from all subscribers, but allowing the subscriber to “opt-in” to receive that kind of content if they desire.
16. **Bill Proposal - Procurement Code Preference for Local Businesses.** This bill is still an idea only, no language has been drafted yet. Under this idea, procurement code is adjusted to allow all local and state agencies to give preference to a local business (where the main office of the business is located in Utah and employs local Utah personnel). Under this change if such a business is within 3% of the lowest bid, the local or state agency may award the bid to the local provider.