



# Utah Education Association

## CAPITOL BULLETIN

February 1, 2008

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"News from the Utah Legislature"

Published by the Utah Education Association, 875 East 5180 South, Murray, Utah 84107-5299 (801) 266-4461

### For Your Information

**Lawmakers  
propose  
\$61 million  
corporate tax cut**

It's an election year and, as expected, legislators are talking tax cuts. The latest proposal — Apportionment of Business Income, Attributing Sales to the State, and Deduction of Net Losses by a Unitary Group (Senate Bill 28) — would give businesses a \$61 million tax break.

UEA lobbyists argued against the bill in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, saying a \$61 million boost in the state's education fund would translate into a 2.5 to 3.0 percent increase in the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU).

The Association also expressed concern that if the economy softens, this tax cut would put additional pressure on income tax collections, the education fund, and the Legislature's ability to adequately fund public education. SB 28 passed out of committee with a unanimous vote.

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### The Week in Review

Bills focusing on differentiated pay for certain mathematics and science teachers, and providing incentives to school districts that extend the school year gained approval in the Utah State Senate. The governor signed a \$22.3 million supplemental appropriation bill that gives Utah educators the full \$2,500 salary increase and \$1,000 bonus they were promised in 2007. Lawmakers are proposing a \$61 million tax cut for businesses.

House Phone: 538-1029 or 1-800-908-4261 Senate Phone: 538-1035 or 1-800-613-0677

## Educator compensation bills approved by Utah State Senate

Two bills dealing with educator compensation were approved by the full Senate this week.

Senate Bill 35, sponsored by Sen. Howard Stephenson (*R-Draper*), would require school districts and charter schools to provide an ongoing salary supplement of \$5,000 to certain mathematics and science teachers. In floor debate, Sen. Ross Romero (*D-Salt Lake City*) argued that the bill is not good policy. "It does not work for elementary teachers, and it does not work for those teachers who teach in other areas . . ." he said. "Market forces are not in play here. If we want to address market forces, then we need to raise the pay of all teachers." The Utah Education Association's position is that all compensation proposals should be studied by a task force.

In a related matter, the Senate also passed Senate Bill 39, which would establish a mathematics, science, and technology task force. The task force would study issues relating to mathematics education, including mathematics standards, the state's mathematics core curriculum, and articulation of mathematics education between public and higher education. If time permits, the task force is also charged with studying issues relating to science and technology education. Task force membership will include two educators and representatives from the Senate, House, governor's office, Utah State Board of Education, and local boards of education.

The Senate approved Senate Bill 41 — Extended School Year Incentive — which would create a grant program designed to provide financial incentives to school districts who adopt school schedules and calendars "that result in more efficient use of human resources and capital facilities." The cost of implementing this program is estimated at \$32 million. Although he voted for the bill, Sen. Michael Waddoups (*R-West Jordan*) said the measure "could create huge problems for students that aren't ready for this, or for families that don't want to do this. It needs to be optional." Many parents statewide have already expressed opposition to mandated year-round education programs. Sen. Stephenson claims that by extending the school year, those educators teaching on "year-round" contracts could earn up to 40 percent higher salaries.

### House, Senate 'make good' on 2007 salary promise

When the Utah Legislature adjourned last March, they thought they had approved and funded a \$2,500 salary increase and \$1,000 bonus for every educator in Utah. Unfortunately, due to some miscalculations, many districts came up short and were forced to give their employees less than the intended amount. To correct this problem, both the House and Senate have approved a one-time \$22.3 million supplemental appropriation to "make good" on their 2007 salary promise. Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. signed the bill.

**A Call to Action: Please call or write the governor and your legislator and thank them for "making good" on their 2007 salary promise. Address: Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr., Utah State Capitol Complex, 350 North State Street, Suite 200, PO Box 142220, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2220. Phone: (801) 538-1000 or (800) 705-2464. House/Senate phone numbers are listed above. Legislators' e-mail addresses at: <http://le.utah.gov>**