

Utah Legislature 2025 Session Synopsis

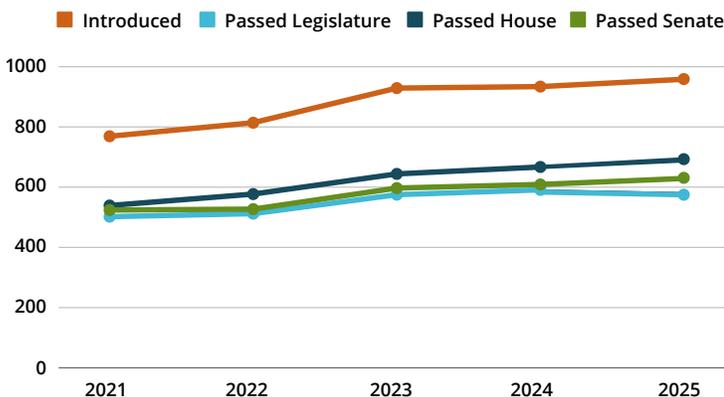


Session Overview

The 2025 legislative session felt like, and in many ways was, an inflection point for local government. There were a handful of bills that were targeted at the core municipal functions of Salt Lake City, including preemption on public safety, roadways, and free speech. The core values of the elected officials, residents, and departments that collectively weave together the fabric of the Capital City were repeatedly threatened time and time again during the 45-day session.

Despite these challenges, the Salt Lake City team continued to show up as fact-based, strategic negotiators. We should be so proud of the work that we did during the session to advance our strategic priorities and to hold true to the values of our residents. There were several bad bills that didn't get introduced, and numerous bills that were amended to a more manageable place. We built allies and had the power of our friends standing in lock step with us to fight bills targeted as us. We are working on unraveling the session and working towards implementation, and will be looking towards ways to recalibrate in this new political climate.

Bills Passed by Session



City Impact

959 Bills Introduced - The legislature introduced 959 bills, setting an all time record. They passed 582 bills, with 378 bills passing in week seven.

345 Tracked Bills - The city tracked 345 bills and 523 substitutions. This increased 23% over 2024.

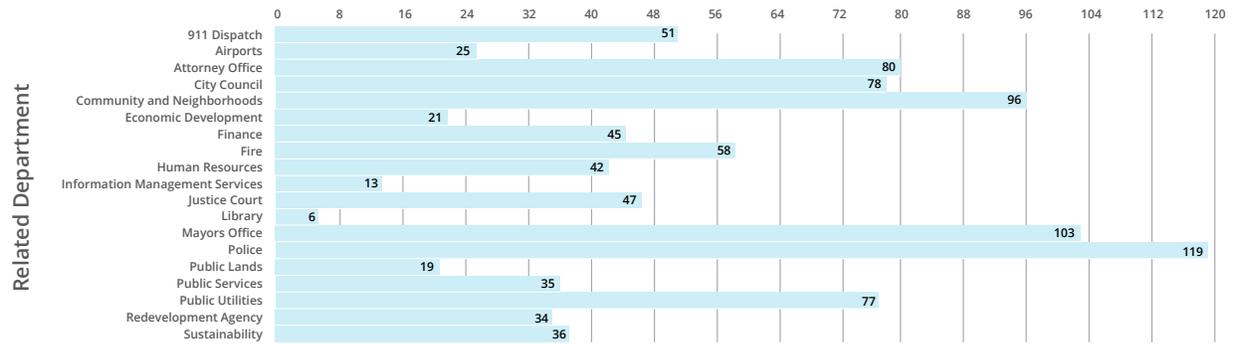
High Priority Bills - 32 bills, and 53 substitutions received a high priority city designation.

28 Bills Passed that Impacted the Public Safety Plan - 42 bills (and 74 substitutions) were introduced that impacted the Plan. These bills will address jail releases of habitual offenders, supportive services for those leaving jail, and more shelter for the homeless.

2608 Department Comments - Department feedback was used to determine city position, city priority, and the work list.

235 Bills with Fiscal Impact - the Finance Department reviewed all introduced bills. There were 126 bills that had an expense impact, 83 with a revenue impact, and 26 with both a revenue and expense impact.

Bills Tracked by Department



- The city tracked 119 bills that impacted the police department.
- The Department of Community and Neighborhoods (CAN) had almost 100 bills assigned to their department.
- The City Attorney's Office provided legal counsel to their respective clients on 80 bills.

2025 High Priority Bills

This is a snapshot of several of the high-priority bills that the Legislative Affairs Division worked on during the session:

- **HB 77 - Flag Display Amendments**
 - Prohibits political subdivisions from displaying flags on government property that are not included on the State mandated list.
- **HB 198 - Highway Impacts on Signage**
 - Allows for relocation of a billboard due to a freeway expansion project.
- **HB 267 - Public Sector Labor Union Amendments**
 - Prohibits Salt Lake City from engaging in collective bargaining with public sector labor unions.
- **HB 360 - Housing Attainability Amendments**
 - Creates a \$10 M purchase and rehab fund for legacy cities.
- **HB 465 - Public Safety Amendments**
 - Requires the city to enter in to an interagency agreement with Department of Public Safety in an effort to improve public safety. Allows for the exercise of eminent domain of unincorporated land for the construction of a new facility for homeless services.
- **SB 26 - Housing and Transit Reinvestment Zone Amendments**
 - Creates a Convention Center Reinvestment Zone development tool to facilitate the renovation of the Salt Palace, Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, and Abravanel Hall.
- **SB 195 - Transportation Amendments**
 - Transportation omnibus bill that requires Salt Lake City to develop a mobility plan and submit to UDOT for approval, and prohibits SLC from proceeding on projects not already advertised unless they are included in the approved mobility plan.
- **SB 336 - UFAIR District Modifications**
 - Modifies the Power District requirements by allowing for the utilization of a Public Infrastructure District and creates a process by which additional land can be incorporated.

Next Steps

During interim, the Legislative Affairs Division will be working to collaboratively and proactively plan for the 2026 session. Here is a snapshot of a few of the things we have planned:

- Provide departments with an individualized report showing bills that passed.
- Analyze tracked bills to assess impact to city policy, operations, and budget.
- Work on implementation and tracking of the Public Safety Plan.
- Meet with departments throughout April and May to solicit feedback on the session.
- Brief the City Council on 3/18/25 on the legislative session.
- Assess ways to improve the session process for the upcoming year.
- Identify proactive policy priorities for the 2026 session.
- Build relationships with legislators and community partners.
- Host legislators on field trips to showcase Salt Lake City projects.
- Create data and fact sheets.
- Participate in studies and working groups.
- Build more cross departmental policy collaboration.

Thank you so much for all your work during the legislative session. The division is so grateful for you and the technical support from the departments. We are also so appreciative for the outpouring of love and support during a very challenging 45-days.