Dear Concerned Citizen,

This year’s AFP Utah Scorecard is a comprehensive view into how the Utah State Legislature voted during the 2022 general Legislative Session. The project is a labor of love by our team members. For 2022, we scored 36 bills and tallied thousands of votes to bring you this scorecard. More importantly, though, we’d like to thank the activists who spent their time and effort advocating for several important policy priorities throughout the session!

Americans for Prosperity-Utah strives to support principled public policy that will allow the people of our great state to pursue their goals, to the benefit of all. Utah is a great place to live and work, with a vibrant and growing economy. We support policies that will help keep it that way and unleash further potential for our state to flourish.

We work to break down barriers to opportunity for all Utahns. By lowering taxes so you keep more of your hard-earned money, and by cutting regulatory red tape and government permission slips like occupational licensing, we open the door for every person who calls Utah home to make their own success contribute to society, and live a life of meaning.

AFP-Utah was also among the loudest voices calling for a tax cut due to record numbers of budget surpluses for the last several years. By encouraging the legislature to lower taxes, we help ensure that resources are available to fund the core functions of government- while allowing Utah families and businesses to keep more of their own earnings.

As we work together to further these goals, we look forward to partnering with broad coalitions to keep Utah one of the best states to live and work in.

Heather Andrews
State Director

SCORING METHODOLOGY

For Bills AFP Supported:
AYE vote = 1 point
NAY vote = -1 point
AYE vote on Priority Legislation = 2 points
NAY vote priority legislation = -2 points

Non votes and absences were not calculated for or against the member’s score, as there is not a method for assuming intent or extenuating circumstances.

For Bills AFP Opposed:
AYE vote = -1 point
NAY vote = 1 point
AYE vote on Priority Legislation = -2 points
NAY vote priority legislation = 2 points

Prime Sponsorship Credits:
Legislators who sponsored aligned priority legislation were awarded an additional point. Similarly, points were deducted from the scores of legislators who sponsored unaligned legislation.

OUR MISSION

The Americans for Prosperity - Utah’s 2022 Legislative Scorecard represents legislation from the chapter’s priority initiatives. The scored legislation does not represent all legislation of 2022 in which AFP would have a principled interest, but the legislation for which AFP mobilized grassroots activity, key voted, or otherwise actively engaged on.

Though AFP-Utah is highly appreciative of the most aligned legislators, it is also appreciative of legislators with whom we have less overall alignment and who sponsored or supported key legislation. We look forward to building policy coalitions from across the political spectrum to advance transformative legislation that remove barriers and increases opportunity for all Utahns.
BILL DESCRIPTIONS

HB 123 | Use of Force Revisions
AFP Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill will increase the trust between the public and our law enforcement agencies. It will require law enforcement to give a verbal warning before using a firearm, require a county attorney to explain why an investigation into the use of force isn't completed within the required timeframe, and make public all of the investigation reports and findings on such investigations. Increasing transparency in the criminal justice system is important to increasing public trust as well as the safety of our law enforcement officers.

HB 124 | Forcible Entry Warrant Modifications
AFP’s Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill creates a better and safer warrant execution system for the public and our law enforcement officers. It requires that officers conducting no-knock warrants wear identifiable markings or clothing, that all warrants be served during daytime hours unless there is sufficient grounds to believe that doing so at night is necessary, and requires a supervisory official to determine there is sufficient basis for executing the special type of warrant.

HB 125 | State Transient Room Tax Modifications
AFP Position: Oppose
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill removed a repeal date for the state transient room tax, making permanent what was intended to be a temporary tax with a specific revenue generating purpose. AFP Utah will continue to fight against increasing taxation efforts in the state.

HB 127 | State Law Involuntary Commitment Amendments
AFP’s Position: Oppose
Outcome: Became State Law Without Signature
This bill made changes to the involuntary commitment standard to bring Utah into compliance with federal law. The changes had little to no impact on the current program and does not address the real problem of lack of treatment options in the state.

HB 139 | Traffic Violation Amendments
AFP’s Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill creates a deferred prosecution program for a person charged with a traffic infraction. This will help incentivize good, safe driving practices and encourage individuals to avoid future traffic violations by balancing grace for simple mistakes and proper accountability for violations of the law.

HB 143 | DUI Penalty Amendments
AFP’s Position: Oppose
Sponsor: Merrill Nelson, Sen. Daniel Thatcher
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill enhances the penalties for a second DUI conviction. Unfortunately, the enhancements in this bill are not tied to the harm caused and will do nothing to improve public safety. Utah recently passed two other DUI penalty enhancement bills that target the most dangerous offenders. This bill is unnecessary and will not prevent harm or future DUs, but will increase negative interactions with the criminal justice system.

HB 146 | Local Licensing Amendments
AFP’s Position: Support
Outcome: Became State Law Without Signature
This bill streamlines licensing processes, and reduces regulations, costs, and bureaucratic burdens imposed on food trucks and other small business owners.

HB 167 | Mental Illness Psychotherapy Drug Task Force
AFP’s Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill creates a taskforce to study the effectiveness of psychotherapy drugs on patients suffering from mental health and other health issues. The taskforce will then use their findings to make recommendations for future reforms in Utah, allowing for alternative medical options that work best to meet patients individual needs.
BILL DESCRIPTIONS

HJR 171 | Custodial Interrogation Amendments
AFP Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill prevents law enforcement from knowingly using false information while interrogating minors as a concerning tactic to elicit an incriminating response. Children are especially susceptible to pressure from authority figures, and allowing law enforcement to lie can often lead to false confessions. Preventing that from happening increases the effectiveness of our pursuit of justice and increases the trust the public has in our justice system.

HB 331 | Hope Scholarship Program
AFP Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill would have created a scholarship program for all students in Utah, allowing their education dollars to follow them to the best options for the educational needs. Parents and students should be free to choose the programs that will help them succeed.

HB 341 | Birth Certificate Amendments
AFP's Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill removes a previous requirement by the Department of Health where new mothers had to answer many intrusive questions in order to obtain their baby's birth certificate. This bill makes answering the newly shortened survey questions optional, and requires the state the automatically send a copy of a child's birth certificate to the parents free of charge.

HB 343 | Regulatory Sandbox Program Amendments
AFP's Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill consolidates Utah’s “sandbox” programs into one regulatory sandbox. This will streamline the process for applicants and make it easier for small businesses and entrepreneurs to test their ideas under a new flexible regulatory model.

HB 243 | Regulatory Sandbox Program Amendments
AFP's Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill helps improve transparency around use of force incidences by law enforcement through requiring the release of the recordings of any incident that resulted in death or bodily injury, or when an officer has fired their weapon. This reform will help increase trust between the public and our public safety institutions, creating a safer system for everyone.

HB 260 | Law Enforcement Recording Release Amendments
AFP's Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill creates a taskforce to identify potential policies for the legislature to consider, concerning the promotion of adopting blockchain, financial technology, and digital innovation.

HB 283 | Mental Health Professional Licensing Amendments
AFP's Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill reduces the number of hours required to obtain a license as a social worker, therapist, or clinical health counselor, putting Utah in-sync with the rest of the country, and increasing important access to mental health services in our state.

HB 335 | Blockchain and Digital Innovation Task Force
AFP's Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill increases the scope of practice for licensed associate physicians, removing unnecessary and burdensome supervisory requirements, and allow those with the skills and education to practice to the full extent of their license.

HB 340 | Justice Reinvestment Initiative Modifications
AFP's Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill is a great next step in Utah having readily available and accurate criminal justice data. Many criminal justice issues like high recidivism rates and effective accountability can all be resolved more constructively with quick access to statewide information.
BILL DESCRIPTIONS

**HB 412 | Probation and Parole Employment Incentive Program**
AFP Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill creates a funding incentive for probation and parole offices to reduce high recidivism rates. Funds would be allocated to adult probation and parole regions according to the percentage of individuals who are gainfully employed on supervision. Employment is a huge component to successful reintegration into society and incentivizing our criminal justice system to promote that will help reduce recidivism rates, which in turn help other serious societal issues.

**HB 426 | Law Enforcement Training Amendments**
AFP’s Position: Support
Outcome: Dead/Failed
This bill would have created a new state grant program that supports additional training for law enforcement officers. Adequate training is important to not only protect the public and increase trust in our criminal justice system but also to better protect our law enforcement officers who regularly go into harm’s way.

**HB 456 | Digital User Asset Payment Amendments**
AFP’s Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill allows Utah taxpayers to use virtual currencies such as Bitcoin to pay their taxes.

**SB 16 | Licensing Amendments**
AFP’s Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill creates the new Occupational and Professional Licensing Review Office. The office will be tasked with regularly reviewing current occupational licensing requirements, and ensuring that new and existing regulations are necessary to protect public health and safety, and not overly burdensome.

**SB 49 | State Film Production Incentives Amendments**
AFP’s Position: Oppose
Sponsor: Ronald Winterton, Rep. Stephen Handy
Outcome: Became Law Without Signature
This bill removes the limit on tax credits for Hollywood millionaires and billionaires, spending millions in additional taxpayer dollars in an attempt to get them to film in Utah. The government should not be picking winners and losers and providing incentives to special interests. Utah has much to offer in an already friendly tax environment, with a talented workforce. We shouldn’t be funding one business at the expense of others.

**SB 35 | Expungement Modifications**
AFP’s Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill is a positive reform in our criminal justice system that expands and adds necessary clarifications to Utah’s expungement process. A criminal record follows people their entire life, and when appropriate it should be easy for that record to be expunged and no longer a barrier to someone after they have paid their debt to society.

**SB 43 | Occupational and Professional Licensing Modifications**
AFP’s Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill removes unnecessary and burdensome restrictions on those wishing to move to Utah and work in their profession. It allows a license to be issued to someone moving from a foreign nation or another state to be licensed in Utah with using licenses, education, experience, and skills to demonstrate that they are competent in the profession. Also removes some barriers for ex-offenders.

**SB 59 | Tax Amendments**
AFP’s Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill lowered Utah’s personal and corporate income tax rate from 4.95% to 4.85%, giving Utah taxpayers an ongoing $200 million tax cut.

**SB 93 | Business Tax Amendments**
AFP’s Position: Support
Outcome: Signed by the Governor
This bill reduces some tangible personal property taxes that businesses are required to pay. The compliance costs associated with tangible personal property tax are high, and this will ease the burden on businesses in Utah.
## BILL DESCRIPTIONS

### SB 101 | Nurse Apprentice Licensing Act
**AFP Position:** Support  
**Sponsor:** Sen. Evan Vickers, Rep. Steve Eliason  
**Outcome:** Signed by the Governor

This bill allows soon to graduate nursing students to practice in clinics and hospitals under a nurse apprentice license. This will empower these highly trained individuals to provide these facilities with critically needed support as they serve the healthcare needs of their communities.

### SB 122 | Unmanned Aircraft Amendments
**AFP's Position:** Support  
**Sponsor:** Sen. Michael Kennedy, Rep. Adam Robertson  
**Outcome:** Signed by the Governor

This bill creates an opportunity for Utah to lead and make meaningful progress in becoming more prepared for the commercialization of drones. This bill creates a taskforce that will examine current issues and make recommendations to improve the laws surrounding drone use, allowing Utah to plan for public safety while embracing the future.

### SB 191 | Regulatory Sandbox in Education
**AFP's Position:** Support  
**Sponsor:** Sen. Lincoln Fillmore, Rep. Doug Welton  
**Outcome:** Signed by the Governor

This bill allows schools to apply for a temporary waiver of the regulatory rules attached to restricted education funds, freeing them up to test and implement innovative and new programs that can benefit many students.

### SB 185 | Children's Health Coverage Amendments
**AFP's Position:** Oppose  
**Sponsor:** Sen. Luz Escamilla, Rep. Mike Schultz  
**Outcome:** Dead/Failed

This bill would have expanded Medicaid and CHIP eligibility to all children in Utah. While the current programs help those most in need, spending millions of dollars of additional taxpayer money is bad fiscal policy.

### SB 120 | Juvenile Justice Amendments
**AFP's Position:** Support  
**Sponsor:** Sen. Todd Weiler, Rep. Jon Hawkins  
**Outcome:** Dead/Failed

This bill would have eliminated fines and fees associated with a juvenile’s involvement with the criminal justice system. We are supportive of ending all fines and fees in the youth justice system, given that these are normally either imposed on a minor who can’t afford to pay them or a minor’s parent who is not the one who violated the law.

### SB 125 | Hospitality Employee Grant Program
**AFP's Position:** Oppose  
**Sponsor:** Sen. Wayne Harper, Rep. Steve Eliason  
**Outcome:** Dead/Failed

This bill would have created a $1250 tax credit to those working in the hospitality industry, spending over $95 million of taxpayer money to benefit one industry. While many were hurt by government mandated shutdowns during the pandemic, picking one industry to prop up is bad policy, and reducing the negative impacts of burdensome regulations on all businesses and workers would help more than government handouts.

### SCR 7 | Concurrent Resolution Calling on Local Governments to Treat Above-trend Revenue Growth as One-time Revenue
**AFP's Position:** Support  
**Sponsor:** Sen. Lincoln Fillmore, Rep. Andrew Stoddard  
**Outcome:** Agreed To

This resolution encourages local governments to treat above-trend revenue growth as one-time revenue rather than ongoing revenue. This will help ensure that government spending doesn’t continue to exponentially grow simply because revenues are increasing.
# HOUSE GRADES

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