

# 2009 Legislative Session

- Overview
  - Budget Issues were dominant – Utah faced a combined shortfall of \$1 billion.
  - Federal economic stimulus legislation prevented a worst case scenario.
  - Short-term nature of the budget “fix” will require future action . . . deep cuts or new revenue.

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- Education
  - Cuts being implemented of 2.5% and 5.1% - resulting in fewer teachers, increased class sizes and possibly shorter days or school year.
  - State funding for Head Start eliminated.

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- Education
  - One-time funding for child care will draw \$23 million in addition federal stimulus.
  - In-state tuition for children of undocumented immigrants preserved.
  - Regent's Scholarship Program preserved.

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- Income
  - EITC/VITA adequately funded
  - Embedded financial education in K-12 and savings info in Kindergarten (SB 100, Jones) - PASSED
  - Improved coordination and outreach for financial and economic education (SCR 3, Jones) - PASSED

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- Income
  - Easier access to higher education savings accounts (HB 35, Dougall) – PASSED
  - \$10 million for housing affordability grants (SB 260, Jenkins) – PASSED
  - HB 107 (S. Clark) Economic Impact of Illegal Immigration – FAILED

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- Health

- Systemic reform continues to move forward (HB 188 and HB 165)
- Medicaid services preserved for 5800 seniors and individuals with disabilities
- Substance abuse, mental health and other health-related services preserved – but cut
- Health care for legal immigrant children –  
**FAILED**

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- Safety Net
  - Funding for state General Assistance program preserved, but cut
  - Funding for homeless services preserved, but cut
  - Delayed effective date for SB81 - FAILED

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# Looking Ahead

- Budget situation continues to be grim – possible special session
- Health reform will continue . . . but requires a faster pace
- SB 81 is scheduled to go into effect on July 1 . . . causing significant challenges for families, businesses and non-profits

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