

1-27-21

Senate Government Operations and Political Subdivisions Committee

Bill: 1 Sub SB 58, Metro Township Amendments

Sponsor: Sen Mayne

Floor Sponsor: Rep. Dunnigan

UASD Position: Support

This Bill: amends provisions relating to metro townships.

Discussion: Sen. Mayne and her co-presenter Nathan Bracken, attorney representing Copperton and Kearns Metro Townships, stated the Metro Townships (MTs) only exist in Salt Lake County. They are not unincorporated townships within Salt Lake County. Therefore, this bill would not impact Salt Lake County. The MTs are incorporated municipalities that are governed under the Municipal Code. The Metro Townships are fully independent of Salt Lake County. The five MTs pool their limited resources together share one set of staff via the Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District. The townships do contract with Salt Lake County occasionally. The MTs have limited revenue streams and do not have municipal energy or telecom taxes. This bill allows the MTs to impose municipal energy or telecom taxes. A motion to approve the 1st substitute SB 58, with alterations to some language passed. When the metro townships were created, there was an understanding that Salt Lake County would provide a number of services for the MTs causing the MTs to not need the municipal energy taxing ability. The MTs are now completely independent from the County and need the ability to impose certain taxes to provide adequate services to their residents. The Mayor of Millcreek and the League of City and Towns testified support for this bill. The Utah Tax Payers Association support this bill. The Utah Tax Payers Commission support the first substitute of this bill because the new language allows data to be provided to the metro townships without fear of criminal prosecution. Rio Tinto Properties support this bill as long as a private company can control when they are added to a municipality. The Magna Metro Township supports this bill. Sen. Iwamoto voiced support for this bill.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: Passed out of committee, including substitute, with a favorable recommendation.