

Date: 2-4-21

Senate Floor

Bill: HB 14 Water Conservancy District Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Handy

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Weiler

UASD Position: Support

This Bill: amends provisions of the Election Code to provide for filling a vacancy on the board of a water conservancy district located in more than one county.

Discussion: Sen. Weiler introduced the bill. There was no discussion.

Yeas: 28

Nays: 0

N/V: 1

Outcome: Passed.

Date: 2-4-21

Senate Floor

Bill: HB 24 State Engineer Electronic Communications

Sponsor: Rep. Ferry

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Hinkins

UASD Position: Support

This Bill: addresses actions taken by the state engineer.

Discussion: Sen. Hinkins introduced the bill. There was no discussion.

Yeas: 26

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: Passed.

Date: 2-4-21

Senate Floor

Bill: 1st Sub. HB 32 Energy Balancing Account Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Albrecht

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Winterton

UASD Position: Support

This Bill: provides a mechanism for an interim rate as a part of the energy balancing account process.

Discussion: Sen. Winterton introduced the bill. There was no discussion.

Yeas: 26

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: Passed.

Date: 2-4-21

Senate Floor

Bill: 3rd Sub. HB 60 Conceal Carry Firearm Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Brooks

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Hinkins

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: modifies provisions related to carrying a concealed firearm and suicide prevention.

Discussion: Sen. Hinkins moved to substitute. He said the substitute provides more information on the fund for suicide prevention and firearm safety. The bill was replaced with the third substitute. Sen. Hinkins explained this bill allows a law-abiding citizen to carry a concealed weapon without a permit. Sen. Winterton said his constituents are concerned with gun safety, and asked if this bill eliminates conceal carry training. Sen. Hinkins said that is still available and education is very important. He said gun safety should be taught in high school. Sen. Winterton asked if that was in this bill. Sen. Hinkins said it is not. Sen. Riebe introduced an amendment that would exclude counties of the first class. She said she cares about the rural districts, and understands the differences from county to county. Salt Lake County is high density, more diverse, and has more at-risk people. Her constituents are concerned about how this would affect Salt Lake County, and believe that education should be required in order to carry a concealed weapon. Sen. Hinkins said he resists that amendment, as Utah County is going to be first class soon. He expressed concern that people in rural counties traveling to Salt Lake County with a concealed weapon might be arrested. Sen. Kitchen spoke in support of the amendment. He said people in his district range from sleeping on the street to living in million dollar homes. The amendment failed. Sen. Anderegg spoke about his conceal carry permit. He said it is ludicrous to think that it qualifies him to carry around his firearm. He explained that current law allows someone to get a permit without one minute of hands-on training. Sen. Anderegg said this bill will restore what the Founding Fathers intended. He believes if you are going to carry a firearm, you are morally obligated to seek training; however, it is not government's role to put limits or restrictions on the right to defend oneself, one's family, and one's property. The conceal carry permit is valuable for understanding the legal aspects of carrying a firearm, but not the practical aspects. Sen. Escamilla said the meat of the bill is in lines 155-156. She asked about criminal background checks. Sen. Hinkins said to buy a weapon you have to have a background check, but if you have a conceal carry permit you don't have to have it done on the spot. Sen. Escamilla noted that there are incidents that occur when police officers carry firearms, even after 40+ hours of training each year. She said she has a conceal carry permit and that it is a minimal requirement. She asked if this bill allows one to conceal a firearm without permit or training. Sen. Hinkins said this bill only applies to people carrying weapons on their person. Sen.

Escamilla said currently if you're carrying a concealed weapon, you're required to have a permit. She asked if this bill will repeal that law. Sen. Hinkins confirmed that. Sen. Escamilla clarified that if this passes, the training will be optional. Sen. Hinkins said he encourages people to get the training because of the suicide prevention fund. Sen. Escamilla said she drafted an amendment. It will place a sunset date of 5 years on this legislation and will be available tomorrow. She is aware that this bill is going to pass, understands the 2nd Amendment, and understands the fear this bill is generating. She spoke about the lethality of suicide by firearm and its danger to children. The opportunity to review this in 5 years will allow the Legislature to review the data.

Sen. Davis said he is concerned about this legislation. In this session, there are many bills that would limit police officers' ability to use their guns. He worries about the impact on them if they are unable to see if someone is carrying a weapon. He opposes the bill. Sen. Iwamoto asked if this bill means that you don't have to have a permit for any type of gun. Sen. Hinkins said he doesn't think many people are trying to conceal AK-47s. It primarily applies to sidearms. Sen. Iwamoto asked if law enforcement groups support the bill. Sen. Hinkins said that 19 other states have this legislation and it hasn't had any negative effect on them. He said if police are unable to protect the people, then the people need to protect themselves. Sen. Iwamoto said her constituents are opposed to the bill. She believes we need more training, not less. Sen. Hinkins said they are not doing away with the conceal carry permit. Sen. Thatcher reiterated that this does not end the conceal carry permit. It does not allow anyone to carry a weapon who is not already allowed to carry a weapon. There are zero places where someone will be able to carry a weapon where they cannot carry a weapon now. He said this bill simply allows people who can currently carry weapons to cover them up. Sen. Riebe spoke about recent protests near schools and at the Capitol in DC. She said there is an arms war right now that no one can win. Her constituents believe that any expansion or any removal of permits is mistaken. She said if the permit is useless, then let's make it useful. If you're encouraging people to have a permit, then why take the permit away? Sen. Hinkins said this is strictly for law-abiding citizens. Criminals are still going to carry whether they have a permit or not. Sen. Escamilla voted no and spoke about the danger of firearms and domestic violence. If you no longer require a permit, why would people get it? Sen. Ipson moved to table the bill on the third reading calendar until the fiscal note is released for the third substitute.

Yeas: 23

Nays: 6

N/V: 0

Outcome: Passed second reading and tabled on the third reading.

Date: 2-4-21

Senate Floor

Bill: 1st Sub. HB 12 Deceased Voter Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Winder

Floor Sponsor: Sen. McKell

UASD Position: Support

This Bill: provides for removal of a voter's name from the official register of voters upon the voter's death.

Discussion: Sen. McKell explained that there is no opposition to the bill. There was no discussion.

Yeas: 29

Nays: 0

N/V: 0

Outcome: Passed second reading.

Date: 2-4-21

Senate Floor

Bill: 1st Sub. HB 29 Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Emergency

Sponsor: Rep. Stratton

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Hinkins

UASD Position: Support

This Bill: addresses the development of a statewide aquatic invasive species emergency response plan.

Discussion: Sen. Hinkins introduced the bill. There was no discussion.

Yeas: 26

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: Passed second reading.

Date: 2-4-21

Senate Floor

Bill: HB 52 Point of the Mountain Development Commission

Sponsor: Rep. Snow

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Stevenson

UASD Position: Support

This Bill: revises the role of the Point of the Mountain Development Commission and extends the repeal date of the Point of the Mountain Development

Discussion: Sen. Stevenson explained that this bill gives the Point of the Mountain Development Commission two more years to function. There was no discussion. The bill was tabled on the third reading calendar while waiting for a fiscal note.

Yeas: 26

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: Passed second reading and tabled on the third reading.

Date: 2-4-21

Senate Floor

Bill: 1st Sub. HB 27 Public Information Website Modifications

Sponsor: Rep. Pierucci

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Johnson

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: amends provisions related to certain public information websites.

Discussion: Sen. Johnson introduced the bill, and explained it pertains primarily to the public information website in the State Auditor's office. There was no discussion.

Yeas: 27

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: Passed second reading.

Date: 2-4-21

Senate Floor

Bill: HB 28 Land Use and Eminent Domain Advisory Board

Sponsor: Rep. Handy

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Anderegg

UASD Position: Support

This Bill: addresses the Land Use and Eminent Domain Advisory Board.

Discussion: Sen. Anderegg introduced the bill, explaining that the board was originally required to have a sunset review of every two years. This bill extends the sunset deadline to 2026. Sen. Buxton asked if this covers the Utah Department of Transportation Eminent Domain Board. Sen. Anderegg said this advisory board gives advice and recommendations for eminent domain for all of state government. He said they are not modifying it, just extending existing boards.

Yeas: 27

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: Passed second reading.

Date: 2-4-21

Senate Floor

Bill: HB 15 Controlled Substance Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Ward

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Kennedy

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: modifies the Utah Controlled Substances Act.

Discussion: Sen. Kennedy said this bill eliminates an exception to opioid prescribers, which allows them to prescribe more than 7 days after surgery. It also requires prescribers to communicate with one another and check the controlled substance database when giving potentially dangerous prescriptions. There was no discussion.

Yeas: 27

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: Passed second reading.

Date: 2-4-21

Senate Floor

Bill: 1st Sub. SB 125 Open and Public Meetings Act Amendment

Sponsor: Sen. Buxton

Floor Sponsor: Rep. Hawkes

UASD Position: TBD

This Bill: modifies the Open and Public Meetings Act.

Discussion: The bill was replaced with the first substitute. Sen. Buxton said the substitute makes technical changes. He introduced the bill. There was no discussion.

Yeas: 25

Nays: 0

N/V: 4

Outcome: Passed second reading.