

Date: 2-8-21

House 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: Rep. Ward moved to concur. He said the Senate made a small change that was merely a clarification.

Yeas: 72

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: HB 15 passed the House.

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: Rep. Pierucci said the Senate made a technical change that did not change the substance of the bill.

Yeas: 72

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: 1st Sub. HB 27 passed the House.

Bill: HB 28 Land Use and Eminent Domain Advisory Board Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Handy

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Anderegg

UASD Position: Support

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

Discussion: Rep. Handy said the Senate added the sunset date back in and set it for 2026. He does not have a problem with that.

Yeas: 72

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: HB 28 passed the House.

Bill: 3rd Sub. HB 60 Conceal Carry Firearms 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: Rep. Brooks said the changes made by the Senate put the suicide prevention fund into code and make technical changes.

Yeas: 51

Nays: 20

N/V: 4

Outcome: 3rd Sub. HB 60 passed the House.

Bill: HB 84

Sponsor: Rep. Romero

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Support

This Bill: requires local law enforcement agencies to collect and submit data on the use of force to the Bureau of Criminal Identification.

Discussion: Rep. Romero introduced the bill. Rep. Nelson said this initially caused him concern because it requires reporting every time there's use of force. However, after speaking with experts, he learned that the word force is limited and this will not require excessive reporting.

Yeas: 69

Nays: 0

N/V: 6

Outcome: HB 84 passed the House.

Bill: 1st Sub. HB 162 Peace Officer Training Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Romero

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: requires a portion of a peace officer's annual training to include certain subjects.

Discussion: Rep. Romero introduced the bill. Rep. Robertson asked why they settled on 16 hours. Rep. Romero explained law enforcement agencies are required to have 40 hours of training, and she wanted to ensure that 16 hours of it was on deescalation and the other topics in the bill.

Yeas: 69

Nays: 0

N/V: 6

Outcome: 1st Sub. HB 162 passed the House.

Bill: 1st Sub. HB 65 Wildland Fire Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Snider

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Support

This Bill: addresses state management of wildland fires.

Discussion: Rep. Snider introduced the bill. There was no discussion.

Yeas: 67

Nays: 0

N/V: 8

Outcome: 1st Sub. HB 65 passed the House.

Bill: HB 211 Initiatives and Referenda Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Thurston

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: amends provisions relating to statewide and local initiatives and referenda.

Discussion: Rep. Thurston introduced the bill. There are inconsistencies in the code when it comes to statewide and local initiatives. This bill will eliminate those inconsistencies. When there was a difference in the code, they erred toward the benefit of the taxpayer. Rep. Harrison asked what the reasoning is to make it a misdemeanor to pay for someone to help gather signatures. Rep. Thurston said this bill does not create any new criminal penalties. Rep. King asked to what extent he has heard comments from people who think it will make it more difficult to collect signatures. Rep. Thurston said he thinks those people are misreading the bill. This doesn't make it more difficult to collect signatures; it merely makes the code more consistent. Rep. King asked him what people have said to him about why they think it will make it more difficult. Rep. Thurston said there are no increased burden requirements on the citizens doing initiatives or referenda. Rep. Briscoe asked about lines 1316-1320. He said they indicate that when circulating an initiative or referenda, a warning must be circulated that it is a misdemeanor to sign with a name that is not one's own name. He asked if that is currently a misdemeanor. Rep. Thurston said that language already exists, it's just in a different order. Rep. Briscoe asked about lines 1289 and 1291. He said he hasn't personally reviewed every line in every petition he's signed over the years. Does adding line 1291 create an action whereby someone could come back to take a signature off? Rep. Thurston said that is an example of language that is inconsistent across the various forms. Current policy is that someone signing should be fully informed about what they're signing. Line 1289 is critical because you need to know the date someone signed. These have already been adopted as a matter of policy. Does it create a cause of action to remove their signatures? No.

Yeas: 54

Nays: 17

N/V: 4

Outcome: HB 211 passed the House.

Bill: 1st Sub. HB 136 Initiative and Referenda Modifications

Sponsor: Rep. Teuscher

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: amends provisions of the Election Code relating to statewide and local initiatives and referenda.

Discussion: Rep. Teuscher introduced the bill. It prohibits signature-gatherers from receiving payment per signature, and requires paid signature-gatherers to wear a badge identifying them as such. It also requires that the Lieutenant Governor's Office or county clerk post information on the initiative or referendum and how to remove one's signature. It requires signature-gatherers to leave a slip of paper with a link to that website. It adds a section to the form where an email address can be collected. Anyone who leaves an email address will be emailed information on the initiative and how they can remove their signature. Finally, it no longer requires a paper copy of the initiative or referendum be attached to a packet. Rep. Stenquist asked if these requirements only apply to those gathering signatures for initiatives and referenda, not to place someone on the ballot. Rep. Teuscher confirmed that. He removed the email requirement for referenda, but left it for initiatives because that is a law-making process. Individuals who sign should receive a copy of what they sign. Rep. Dailey-Provost asked if it's possible that an individual could be personally vested and passionate about an issue and still get paid to collect signatures. Rep. Teuscher said yes. Rep. Dailey-Provost asked if it is reasonable or unreasonable to malign the intent of people who are passionate about an issue and have taken advantage of funding by stakeholders. Rep. Teuscher said he is trying to provide transparency. No one is maligning paid signature-gatherers. Rep. Ward said he noticed that the bill prohibits certain types of payments. Are there other examples of businesses where the state has forced them to pay employees only on an hourly rate? Rep. Teuscher said he doesn't have examples right now. Rep. Owens spoke in opposition to the bill. Rep. Handy said this bill is an overreaction to bad actors. Rep. Judkins moved to strike lines 77-82, to allow businesses to pay signature-gatherers however they wish. Rep. Teuscher spoke in opposition to the amendment. However, he noted he would still vote for the bill if amended. Rep. Hawkes spoke in opposition to the amendment. The restriction on pay-per-signature is the single most important part of the bill. Rep. Lyman spoke in favor of the amendment. Rep. Gibson spoke in opposition to the amendment. He said government legislates how lobbyists can be paid. Rep. Wilcox spoke in opposition to the amendment. The amendment failed. Rep. Waldrip said he is conflicted about the bill, and would like to see more consensus

from the stakeholders before it is passed. Reps. Hawkes, Strong, Wilcox, and Gibson spoke in favor of the bill.

Yeas: 42

Nays: 30

N/V: 3

Outcome: 1st Sub. HB 136 passed the House.