

Date: 2-9-21

House Judiciary Committee

Bill: HB 104 Victim Address Confidentiality Program

Sponsor: Rep. Pitcher

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: creates an address confidentiality program for crime victims.

Discussion: Rep. Pitcher introduced the bill. Darcy Goddard, who works in the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office, explained that the bulk of the fiscal note pertains to developing the victim database. People who are part of the program and register to vote must register in-person at the county clerk's office, and will provide their actual address when doing so. Rep. Abbott asked about how this will work. Ms. Goddard explained that most states house this in the state capitol. Once the participant is enrolled, they can use the assigned address for any correspondence, as well as things like school registration. Private companies cannot be required to use the assigned address, but in many other states they have chosen to use it. Participants will receive packages at their actual addresses so it does not place too large a burden on the state and so local governments can receive associated sales tax. However, if they request to receive packages at the assigned address, the state may choose to agree. Rep. Abbott asked about property records. Ms. Goddard said property records are already protected for at-risk employees, so they're able to suppress the name of the owner on available property records. Rep. Brammer noted that email and electronic delivery protect individuals better than physical mail. Ms. Goddard said they looked at that, but many government systems still rely heavily on physical addresses. Rep. Brammer said he'd rather reform the government on that issue than create a new program to deal with it. He asked about packages. Ms. Goddard said lines 163-168 define mail as flat. 207-208 note that they can arrange at the participant's request to receive items other than mail at the participant's expense, if the state agrees. The Statewide Association of Prosecutors supports the bill. Rebecca Rockwell, Utah State Tax Commissioner, noted that they are working with Rep. Pitcher on the bill. Their administrative issues are not yet addressed in the legislation, but Rep. Pitcher is working on a substitute that will resolve them. Rep. Brammer moved that they continue on to the next item on the agenda since there are tax issues that need to be resolved.

Yeas: 11

Nays: 0

N/V: 1

Outcome: HB 104 was held in committee.