

2-16-21

House Health and Human Services Committee

Bill: 1st substitute SB 109, Emergency Services Amendments

Sponsor: Sen. Harper

Floor Sponsor: Rep. Handy

UASD Position: Support

This Bill: modifies certification provisions for emergency medical responders.

Discussion: Senator Harper explained that 1st substitute SB 109 is a result from an audit that was performed over the 2020 interim. 1st substitute SB 109 directs the State Emergency Medical Services Committee to establish certification requirements. An Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”) dispatcher must pass a background check and be cleared through the Department of Public Safety. The Bill clarifies the background clearance process and the certification requirements for EMS personnel. Rep. Ray voiced support for this bill.

Yeas: 10

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: Passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation

Bill: 1st substitute SB 70, Mobile Crisis Outreach Team Expansion

Sponsor: Sen. Riebe

Floor Sponsor: Rep. Stoddard

UASD Position: Support

This Bill: creates additional mobile crisis outreach teams.

Discussion: The 2nd substitute addresses concerns of stakeholders. Senator Riebe stated that this Bill creates additional mobile crisis outreach (“MCOT”) teams across the state. Currently, there

are two counties who utilize mobile crisis outreach teams. The Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health will create and monitor these outreach teams. These MCOTs are designed to assist law enforcement by de-escalating emergency calls due to mental health issues. The Utah Sheriffs' Association, Utah League of Cities and Towns, Utah Association of Counties, Utah Association of Special Districts and the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health support this Bill. Testimony was given about the fiscal benefits, as well as the benefits to individuals suffering a mental crisis and the benefits to emergency responders from the utilization of mobile crisis outreach teams. Rep. Eliason voiced support for this bill. The 2nd substitute was adopted by the Committee.

Yeas: 11

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: 2nd Substitute SB 70 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation