

2-19-21

**House Education Committee**

**Bill: HB 343, School Emergency Drills Amendments**

Sponsor: Rep. Spackman Moss

Floor Sponsor:

**UASD Position: TBD**

This Bill: makes changes to emergency evacuation drill requirements for certain educational facilities during the 2021-2022 school year.

Discussion: HB 343 changes requirements for evacuation drills from the beginning of the 2021 school year until February 28, 2022. K-12 schools will not be required to conduct an emergency drill before March 1, 2022. K-12 schools will be required to provide monthly in-class instruction until March of 2022 to students in an age-appropriate manner. The State Board of Education, in coordination with the authority having jurisdiction (State Fire Marshal, Deputy of the State Fire Marshal or the local fire enforcement authority), will determine the age-appropriate emergency evacuation/safety drills and in-class instruction of the procedures for the drills. Utah Transit Authority voiced support for this bill. The Utah State Board of Education has not taken a formal position, but appreciates the involvement with the sponsor. Rep. Peterson voiced opposition to this bill because the drills are a necessity. Rep. Weight and Rep. Johnson voiced support for this bill.

Yeas: 10

Nays: 3

N/V: 2

**Outcome: Passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation**