

2-22-21

Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee

Bill: SB 205, Election Process Amendments

Sponsor: Sen. McCay

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: TBD

This Bill: amends provisions relating to the conduct of elections.

Discussion: Senator McCay discussed what he believes to be the unintended consequences of signature gathering for candidates. The sponsor said he is trying to leverage what we know about the election process and the convention process and use those processes to our advantage. The Senator also believes this bill provides the ability for more candidates to go through the primary process without the additional cost of the signature gathering. The sponsor said the solution is to create a third political party called the Convention Party. If a party changes its by-laws to create a two thirds vote threshold, that party will be able to use the convention process and not the signature gathering process. Alliance for a Better Utah, members of the public and Count My Vote voiced opposition to this bill. The Utah Republican Party voiced support for this bill. The Chair of the committee asked if the sponsor would bring Count My Vote to the table for discussions. The sponsor said that is something he would consider.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 2

N/V: 0

Outcome: Passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation

Bill: SB 155, 988 Mental Healthy Crisis Assistance

Sponsor: Sen. Thatcher

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: creates the Statewide Behavioral Health Crisis Response Account and the 988 Mutual Health Crisis Assistance Task Force.

Discussion: The sponsor said this bill applies for Medicaid waivers. The bill creates a restricted account within the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. The 988 Mutual Health Crisis Assistance Task Force is created by the bill. A 1st substitute was presented and adopted by the committee. The sponsor said the fiscal note is the main complication in creating this program. The Task Force is designed to address the financing issue. The Director of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, the Police Chiefs Association and AT&T voiced support for this bill.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: 1st substitute SB 155 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation

Bill: 2nd Substitute HB 244, First Class County Highway Road Funds Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Dunnigan

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Harper

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: allocates funds in the County of the First-Class Highway Projects Fund.

Discussion: Representative Dunnigan said this bill only involves Salt Lake County and Salt Lake County funds which will be used for transportation projects in Salt Lake County. Every city and township within Salt Lake County will be eligible for funding. The 3rd substitute was adopted by the committee. The substitute monetizes the 2 million dollars, includes the metro townships as eligible for funding and makes some technical changes. The Mayor of Millcreek voiced support for the 3rd substitute of this bill.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: 3rd Substitute HB 244 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation