

Date: 2-26-21

Senate Business and Labor Committee

Bill: SB 233 Military Installation Development Authority Amendments

Sponsor: Sen. Stevenson

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: TBD

This Bill: modifies provisions relating to the Military Installation Development Authority.

Discussion: Sen. Stevenson explained that the Military Installation Development Authority (MIDA) functions as a city. Currently they have the two largest development projects in the state, on Hill Air Force Base and in Wasatch County. This bill allows MIDA to work with the tax commission to get these projects reviewed. It consists primarily of technical adjustments. A community member spoke in opposition to the bill. Sen. Bramble asked the man if he has any evidence that sketchy accounting is occurring. He said no. Sen. Bramble asked Sen. Stevenson if these projects are subject to audit. Sen. Stevenson said they are. The board members that oversee these projects are elected officials.

Yeas: 4

Nays: 0

N/V: 5

Outcome: SB 233 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: HB 308 Covid-19 Vaccine Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Spendlove

Floor Sponsor: Sen. McCay

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: prohibits a governmental entity from requiring that an individual receive a vaccine for COVID-19.

Discussion: Rep. Spendlove introduced the bill. It has a provision that allows government employees of the Department of Health or the University of Utah hospital to require the vaccine for those in critical functions. Sen. Mayne asked if this refers to new hires or current employees. Rep. Spendlove emphasized that it only applies to state and local government. Starting on line 60, it allows an exception for those required to receive vaccination in order to perform their assigned duties. This would merely formalize the Department of Health's existing practice. Sen. Mayne noted that her doctor isn't required to receive a flu shot in order to work there. Rep. Spendlove said to his knowledge, no government in Utah is considering mandating COVID-19 vaccination for employment. The bill is intended to draw that policy line now, before it becomes necessary. Sen. Bramble asked if the term COVID-19 includes all the current known variants and future variants. What is the definition of COVID-19? Rep. Spendlove said this general definition will cover COVID-19 and its close variants. Sen. Bramble referenced a provision of federal code that appears to be broad — the authorization of anything intended to combat a biologic threat. Rep. Spendlove said that the next line clarifies that it has to be specifically intended to COVID-19. He said he'll confirm that the bill covers all vaccines created because of COVID-19 and its variants. The Utah Academy of Family Physicians no longer opposes the bill, thanks to the exemption that was added.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: HB 308 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 1st Sub. HB 355 Workers' Compensation Revisions

Sponsor: Rep. Hawkes

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Cullimore

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: amends provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act.

Discussion: Rep. Hawkes introduced the bill. It closes a loophole dealing with general contractor liability when an employee of a subcontractor is injured on the job. This legislation will treat the employee of a subcontractor as an employee of the general contractor for the purposes of workers' compensation. Sen. Bramble asked why this loophole was created. Rep. Hawkes it was the result of a change in code, and litigation brought it to his attention. The Associated General Contractors supports the bill.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: 1st Sub. HB 355 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation.