

2-26-21

Senate Judiciary, Law Enforcement, and Criminal Justice Committee

Bill: 3rd Substitute HB 237, Lethal Force Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Dailey- Provost

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Vickers

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: addresses when a peace officer may use deadly force.

Discussion: The sponsor said this is a consensus bill. If an individual is only a threat to themselves, law enforcement will not be permitted to use lethal force. Members of the public voiced support and opposition to the bill. The ACLU of Utah voiced support for this bill.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

N/V: 0

Outcome: 3rd Substitute HB 237 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation

Bill: 1st Substitute HB 301, Domestic Violence Training Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Pierucci

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Fillmore

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: provides for domestic violence and lethality assessment training for law enforcement officers and reporting requirements.

Discussion: The sponsor said this bill creates a domestic violence and lethality assessment training as part of Peace Officers Standards and Training ("POST"). The bill creates an optional hybrid program trainings conduct by POST.

Yeas: 4

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: 1st Substitute HB 301 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation

Bill: HB 334, Special Needs Training for Law Enforcement Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Eliason

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Thatcher

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: requires peace officer training to include training on autism spectrum disorder and other mental illnesses.

Discussion: Rep. Eliason said this bill requires training for law enforcement officers on how to handle the specific challenges involved when answering a call about an individual with a mental illness, autism or other neurological disorder. Sen. Thatcher voiced support for the bill. Sen. Kennedy asked to strike the word neurological from the bill. The sponsor did not want to make that change and the committee had no desire to delete “neurological disorder”. The Disability Law Center, members of the public, the Utah Eagle Forum and the Utah League of Cities and Towns voiced support for this bill.

Yeas: 4

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: HB 334 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation and was added to the consent calendar