

Date: 2-26-21

**Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee**

**Bill: SB 225 Navajo Water Rights Negotiation**

Sponsor: Sen. Hinkins

Floor Sponsor:

**UASD Position: TBD**

This Bill: addresses the process to finalize negotiations of Navajo water rights.

Discussion: Sen. Hinkins introduced the bill. Utah State Engineer Teresa Wilhelmsen presented with him. She explained that the legislation affirms Utah's commitment to completing the remaining steps in this water rights settlement. Nathaniel Brown spoke on behalf of San Juan County and Navajo Utah Commission about the importance of getting water to the Navajo Nation.

Yeas: 8

Nays: 0

N/V: 0

**Outcome: SB 225 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation.**

**Resolution: SJR 14 Joint Resolution on Settlement of Federal Reserved Water Right Claims**

Sponsor: Sen. Hinkins

Floor Sponsor:

**UASD Position: TBD**

This Resolution: ratifies a settlement of certain federal reserved water right claims and approves the financial settlement subject to specified conditions.

Discussion: Sen. Hinkins explained that this outlines the development of the settlement with the Navajo Nation. Dustin Jansen spoke in support of the resolution. Sen. Hinkins noted that Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez has been instrumental in bringing this together. Sen. Owens thanked Sen. Hinkins for his work on this.

Yeas: 8

Nays: 0

N/V: 0

**Outcome: SJR 14 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation.**

**Bill: 4th Sub. HB 227 Self Defense Amendments**

Sponsor: Rep. Lisonbee

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Hinkins

**UASD Position: Tracking with Concern**

This Bill: addresses the justifiable use or threatened use of force.

Discussion: Rep. Lisonbee introduced the bill. It flips the presumption for a person who has been charged. The state will need to meet a burden of proof in a hearing prior to trial. If the court finds the person justified in a clear case of self defense, they will not need to go to trial. Trial lawyer Mitch Vilos presented with Rep. Lisonbee. Sen. Davis asked what the fourth substitute does. Rep. Lisonbee said it is a minor change that the victims' groups requested. The bill will only apply to class A and felony charges. She also removed domestic violence cases. The fourth substitute was adopted. The Utah Shooting Sports Council, criminal defense lawyer Mark Moffat, the Utah Sheriffs Association, the National Rifle Association, and criminal defense lawyer Ed Brass support the bill. The Salt Lake County District Attorney, the Statewide Association of Prosecutors, Ed Rutan, and Kane County Attorney Rob Van Dyke oppose the bill.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

**Outcome: 4th Sub. HB 227 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation.**