

3-1-21

House Government Operations Committee

Bill: 2nd Substitute SB 195, Emergency Response Amendments

Sponsor: Sen. Vickers

Floor Sponsor: Rep. Peterson

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: amends provisions related to emergency powers and public health emergencies.

Discussion: 3rd Substitute SB 195 was adopted and amended by the committee. The sponsor said this bill deals with planning for future long-term emergencies. Rep. Petersons said SB 195 makes sure the Legislature has the appropriate powers to provide checks and balances of the Executive branch during a declared emergency. The executive branch must be included in the process of creating health orders, but the legislative body will have the power to veto those executive orders. When an executive order put in place by the Governor expires after 30 days, the Legislature gets to vote to determine whether to renew the order. The Governor will not be allowed to renew an executive order. The bill creates a committee, made up of legislators, to review renewals of executive orders. The bill allows health departments to issue mandates, but it clearly gives the Legislature power to terminate any health department mandate. The sponsor's said the goal of this bill is to give the Legislature significant oversight over any declared emergency issued by the Governor and mandate issued by a health department. The Utah Department of Health voiced support and concern for this bill. Members on the public voiced support and opposition to this bill. The Libertas Institute voiced support for this bill.

Yeas: 10

Nays: 1

N/V: 0

Outcome: 3rd Substitute SB 195, as amended, passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation

Bill: HB 294, Pandemic Emergency Powers Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Ray

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: provides for the termination of emergency powers and certain public health orders related to COVID-19 upon reaching certain thresholds of positivity rates,

Discussion: 2nd Substitute HB 294 was adopted by the committee. The sponsor said this bill puts together a check list to end restrictions put in place during an emergency declaration. The sponsor stated that schools will be allowed to determine when to end public health order and emergency declaration restrictions. The Utah Department of Health and the Utah Public Health Association voiced opposition to this bill. Members of the public voiced support and opposition to this bill.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 3

N/V: 1

Outcome: 2nd Substitute HB 294 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation

Bill: 1st Substitute SB 181, Department of Government Operations

Sponsor: Sen. Millner

Floor Sponsor: Rep. Peterson

UASD Position: TBD

This Bill: combines the Department of Administrative Services, The Department of Technology Services, and the Department of Human Resource Management into one, new department, the Department of Government Operations.

Discussion: 2nd Substitute SB 181 was adopted by the committee. The substitute makes technical corrections. The sponsor said this bill combines three departments to create the Department of Government Operations.

Yeas: 10

Nays: 0

N/V: 1

Outcome: 2nd Substitute SB 181 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation

Bill: 1st Substitute SB 182, Department of Government Operations – Cross Reference Changes

Sponsor: Sen. Millner

Floor Sponsor: Rep. Peterson

UASD Position: TBD

This Bill: modifies cross-references in conformance with 2021 General Session S.B. 181.

Discussion: The sponsor said this bill puts in place the necessary cross references changes into the Code if 2nd substitute SB 181 becomes law.

Yeas: 10

Nays: 0

N/V: 1

Outcome: 1st Substitute SB 182 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation

Bill: 1st Substitute SB 201, Public Notice Amendments

Sponsor: Sen. Mayne

Floor Sponsor: Rep. Ferry

UASD Position: Support

This Bill: modifies provisions relating to public notices.

Discussion: The sponsor said this bill is designed to increase transparency by allowing individuals to find public notices online. It eliminates some requirements to publish public notices in a newspaper and on a specified legal notice website, and requires those notices to be posted on the Utah Public Notice Website. The bill requires the Division of Archives and Records to automatically provide a feed of postings to the Utah Public Notice Website if requested by a newspaper. 2nd Substitute SB 201 was adopted by the committee. The League of Cities and Towns voiced support for this bill.

Yeas: 11

Nays: 0

N/V: 0

Outcome: 2nd Substitute SB 201 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation