

3-1-21

Senate Government Operations and Political Subdivisions Committee

Bill: SB 240, County Recreational Area Amendments

Sponsor: Sen. Bramble

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: TBD

This Bill: amends provisions related to certain county recreational areas.

Discussion: The sponsor said this bill amends the members of the Mountainous Planning District's Commission. Save Our Canyons voiced opposition to this bill because they believe it removes the voices of Salt Lake County residents in protecting their watershed. The Mayor of the Town of Brighton and the Salt Lake County Council voiced support for this bill.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

N/V: 1

Outcome: SB 240 passed out of Committee with a favorable recommendation

Bill: 2nd Substitute HB 368, State Planning Agencies Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Spendlove

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Millner

UASD Position: TBD

This Bill: modifies provisions relating to state planning agencies.

Discussion: The Executive Directory of Governor's Office of Management and Budget said this bill provides an opportunity to plan for Utah's future by expanding current state projects, not hindering them. The bill changes the name of the Governor's Office of Management and Budget Office to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, and cleans up statutory Code. The Wasatch Front Regional Council voiced support for this bill.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

N/V: 1

Outcome: 2nd Substitute HB 368 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation

Bill: 3rd Substitute HB 115, Municipal Boundary Modifications

Sponsor: Rep. Waldrip

Floor Sponsor: Sen. McCay

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: amends provisions related to municipal boundaries.

Discussion: This bill was worked on throughout the interim by the Utah League of Cities and Towns and the Utah Association of Counties to resolve an issue regarding the annexation of the Town of Hideout and the incorporations both of Erda in Tooele County and a West Weber community. 3rd substitute HB 115 establishes a procedure for filing an annexation petition proposing a cross-county annexation. The bill changes various notification requirements for proposed annexations. It requires a municipal legislative body to exclude private real property located in a mining protection area from an annexation petition unless the property owner consents. The bill gives a mechanism for a feasibility study to be modified if property is subsequently annexed or excluded from the proposed incorporation. 3rd substitute HB 115 also modifies provisions relating to the public hearings required for incorporation and requires a county clerk to prepare a voter information pamphlet before an incorporation election is held. The Utah Association of Counties supports this bill.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

N/V: 1

Outcome: 3rd Substitute HB 115 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation

Bill: 1st Substitute HB 75, Municipal Alternative Voting Methods Pilot Project Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Stenquist

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Bramble

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: amends provisions relating to the Municipal Alternative Voting Methods Pilot Project.

Discussion: The sponsor said this bill resolves an impasse between cities that want to participate in rank choice voting and county clerks that don't want to by clarifying in State Statute that the city is allowed to make that choice. The 3rd substitute HB 75 was adopted by the Committee. The substitute language does not require counties to conduct rank choice voting, but rather, gives counties an opportunity to participate in rank choice voting if they choose to do so. The Clerks Legislative Committee voiced support for the 3rd substitute of the bill.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

N/V: 1

Outcome: 3rd Substitute HB 75 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation

Bill: 1st Substitute HB 136, Imitative and Referenda Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Teuscher

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Stevenson

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: amends provisions of the Election Code relating to statewide and local initiatives and referenda.

Discussion: The 2nd substitute HB 136 was adopted by the Committee. The substitute language fixes a constitutionality issue. The sponsor said this bill prohibits signature gatherers from being paid per signature. It requires signature gatherers to wear a badge. The Lt. Governor's Office will be required to post the initiatives or referenda on its website. The bill also requires the signature gatherer to leave a slip with the individual about the issue. The sponsor said that he will work to digitize more of the process during interim. Members of the public voiced opposition to this bill.

The Utah Eagle Forum, Wasatch Tax Payers Association and the Director of Elections at the Lt. Governor's Office voiced support for 2nd substitute HB 136.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 2

N/V: 1

Outcome: 2nd Substitute HB 136 passed out of committee with a favorable recommendation