

## House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee

Date: 1/29/2025

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### **Bill: 1<sup>st</sup> substitute HB 89 – Water Transfer Amendments**

Sponsor: Representative Gay Lynn Bennion

Floor Sponsor:

**UASD Position: Support**

This Bill modifies provisions related to probate transfer of personal property by affidavit.

Discussion: HB 89 prohibits the transfer of water shares via small estate probate procedures involving an affidavit. Currently, entities may transfer water shares with a value less than \$100,000 without any supervision. This exception has been exploited to transfer water shares that exceed that amount. HB 89 removes the affidavit process and requires the transfer of the water share to go through probate. Bear River Canal Company spoke in support of the Bill. The Utah Water Task Force unanimously supports this Bill. Representative Albrecht asked if water shares need to be included in a trust. The representative from Bear River Canal Company replied that shares do need to be accounted for in a trust or a will. Representative Chew asked to clarify if the Bill pertains to water rights or water shares. The sponsor clarified that HB 89 only applies to water shares. Representative Albrecht asked if this legislation went through the Executive Water Development Commission and the Task Force. The sponsor said that it has been through the Task Force twice but has not been to the Commission yet. The Utah Farm Bureau Federation spoke in support of the Bill. The 1<sup>st</sup> substitute was adopted by the Committee.

Yeas: 13

Nays: 0

N/V: 1

**Outcome: 1<sup>st</sup> substitute HB 89 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**

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### **Bill: SB 30 – Forest Fire Resources Compact Amendments**

Sponsor: Senator Derrin R. Owens

Floor Sponsor: Troy Shelley

**UASD Position: Tracking**

This Bill enacts the Great Plains Interstate Fire Compact.

Discussion: SB 30 gives authority to the Governor to have Utah join the Great Plains Interstate Fire Compact. This will allow Utah to work with other states within the Compact to share access to resources when the need arises. There were no comments made by the public.

Yeas:10

Nays: 0  
N/V: 4

**Outcome: SB 30 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**

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**Bill: 1<sup>st</sup> substitute HB 81 – Fluoride Amendments**

Sponsor: Representative Stephanie Gricius

Floor Sponsor: Senator Kirk A. Cullimore

**UASD Position: Support**

This Bill addresses provisions related to water fluoridation and prescription fluoride supplements.

Discussion: The sponsor spoke to the 1<sup>st</sup> substitute, which was adopted by the Committee. This Bill states that a person may not add fluoride to water in, or water that will be introduced into, a public water system. A political subdivision may not enact or enforce an ordinance that requires or permits the addition of fluoride to water in, or water that will be introduced into, a public water system. The Bill allows a pharmacist to prescribe fluoride. The Department of Health and Human Services is designated to provide prescription guidelines. A number of citizens spoke in support of the Bill. The Salt Lake County Council, the North Salt Lake City Council, the Mayor of Brigham City, a Trustee with the South Davis Water District, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, a member of the Herriman City Council, the Chair of the South Davis Water District Board, and the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District spoke in support of the Bill. A dentist spoke in opposition to the Bill because fluoridated water decreases dental disease by 25%. The President of the Utah Dental Association and the Associate Dean of the University of Utah's Dental School spoke in strong opposition to the Bill.

Yeas: 10  
Nays: 3  
N/V: 1

**Outcome: 1<sup>st</sup> substitute HB 81 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**

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