

House Business, Labor, and Commerce Committee

February 13th, 2025

Bill: 2nd substitute HB 301 – Ambulance Provider Payment Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Cory A. Maloy

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill amends provisions related to ambulance billing and charges.

Discussion: Representative Maloy presented the 2nd substitute of the Bill, which adds a sunset date and was adopted by the Committee. He explained that the Bill establishes a base rate for ground ambulance services, prohibits providers from charging above this rate or balance billing patients, and requires insurers to honor the established rate. The Bill mandates a future audit by the Legislative Auditor General, ensures fair mileage rates, caps medication costs during transport, and includes a repeal date for review after two years. The sponsor highlighted that the goal is to create a sustainable ambulance cost structure with broad stakeholder support.

Representative Wilcox asked about the current fixed rate and how it is changing. The sponsor clarified that the rate already exists by rule and will increase by 5% to cover supply costs, pointing to line 80 for the base rate breakdown. He further explained that the two-year audit would help determine if future rate adjustments are needed. Representative Thurston raised questions about how this base rate would impact insurers and insured patients. The sponsor confirmed that insurance companies would need to align their payments with the established base rates. Representative Thurston expressed support for the approach. Gold Cross Ambulance, the Rural EMS Directors Association of Utah, and the President of the Utah State Fire Chiefs Association spoke in support of the Bill. Blue Cross Blue Shield expressed some concerns about high rates but agreed that the Bill was heading in the right direction. Representative Peterson inquired whether rates were based on the patients' needs or staffing. The sponsor explained that costs primarily depend on patient needs, but different staffing levels can affect the rate. Derrick Bushman, from the Department of Public Safety, added that rates for paramedic level services are determined by patient requirements and clarified that mileage rates are state based. No further discussion ensued.

Yeas: 11

Nays: 0

N/V: 5

Outcome: 2nd substitute HB 301 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 1st substitute HB 186 – Wage Payment Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Kay J. Christofferson

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This bill modifies the payment of wages provisions.

Discussion: Representative Kay Christofferson spoke to the 1st substitute, which was adopted by the Committee. The sponsor explained that current law requires a terminated employee to provide a written demand for payment and employers must compensate them for time worked prior to the termination. The Bill removes the requirement for an employee to provide a written demand for payment upon separating from an employer and eliminates the requirement for an employee to make a written demand 15 days prior to filing a suit for wages. The Bill aims to simplify employee obligations and clarify employer responsibilities regarding compensation. The 1st substitute adds the language from HB 172 removing the 15-day requirement. Amendment 1 was adopted by the Committee. The amendment changes the compensation requirement for the employers from 24 hours to "1 business day". Two independent attorneys spoke in favor of the Bill, emphasizing the difficulties employees face in recovering unpaid wages through legal channels. No further discussion ensued.

Yeas: 9

Nays: 0

N/V: 7

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 186, as amended, passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
