

**Bill: SB 68 – Disability Litigation Amendments**

Sponsor: Senator Brammer

Floor Sponsor:

**UASD Position: Track**

This Bill addresses website access litigation brought under the Americans with Disabilities.

Discussion: Senator Brammer presented the Bill, explaining that it addresses accessibility compliance for websites and establishes a safe-harbor period of 30 to 90 days during which a business may correct violations before a lawsuit can be filed. He stated that the Bill is intended to curb abusive litigation practices that have emerged in other states, such as California and Florida, where a small number of attorneys have filed hundreds of lawsuits over minor or technical violations. An Assistant Utah Attorney General noted that in 2017, three local attorneys filed between 300 and 400 lawsuits over issues as small as the height of a sign marking a handicapped parking space. Senator Brammer emphasized that while the Americans with Disabilities Act is an important federal law that the state fully supports, frivolous lawsuits harm local businesses without improving accessibility in a meaningful way. Senator Weiler voiced his support for the Bill, criticizing litigation practices that allow attorneys to “pad their own pockets”.

The Disability Law Center expressed concern that the Bill could discourage individuals with legitimate accessibility complaints from bringing lawsuits. A member of the public testified against the Bill. Everette Bacon, representing the National Federation of the Blind of Utah, also raised concerns and pointed to ongoing national efforts to address accessibility enforcement. In response, Senator Brammer reiterated that the Bill is designed to target abusive plaintiff law firms rather than individuals with genuine accessibility issues. There was no further discussion from the Committee.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 4

**Outcome: SB 68 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**

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**Bill: SB 99 – Emergency Reporting Offense Amendments**

Sponsor: Senator Fillmore

Floor Sponsor: Representative Gricius

**UASD Position: Support**

This Bill modifies the offense of emergency reporting abuse.

Discussion: Senator Fillmore presented the 1<sup>st</sup> substitute, which was adopted by the Committee. The substitute adds language refining the definition of emergency and non-emergency 911 calls.

The sponsor explained that this Bill addresses the high volume of non-emergency 911 calls by creating a Class B misdemeanor for individuals who repeatedly make false or non-emergency 911 calls. The intent of the Bill is to reduce strain on emergency response systems while preserving access for legitimate emergencies. The sponsor emphasized that the Bill is carefully drafted to require repeated misuse before penalties apply.

A representative from the Statewide Association of Prosecutors (“SWAP”) testified in support of the Bill, stating that it strikes an appropriate balance by discouraging abuse of the 911 system without chilling legitimate emergency calls. A member of the public raised questions about how repeated non-emergency calls would be identified and expressed concern for individuals with developmental or mental health issues. Senator Escamilla asked about judicial discretion in cases involving individuals who may be troubled or have underlying issues, and the sponsor responded that judges would retain discretion when evaluating such cases. Another member of the public testified in opposition, expressing concern about potential unintended consequences.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

**Outcome: 1<sup>st</sup> substitute SB 99 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**