

Senate Government Operations and Political Subdivisions Committee
01/28/2026

Bill: SB 166 - Line-of-Duty Death Benefit Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Owens

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Track

This Bill modifies provisions related to line-of-duty death benefits.

Discussion: The sponsor stated that the Bill allows money from the Local Public Safety and Firefighter Surviving Spouse Trust Fund to be used to pay certain previously incurred employer costs for health coverage for a surviving spouse and dependent children following a line-of-duty death. The sponsor explained that the primary change from last year's Bill is an updated effective date so that additional families whose loved ones died in the line of duty may qualify for health coverage.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: SB 166 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: HB 33 - Political Signs Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Teuscher

Floor Sponsor: Senator Vickers

UASD Position: Track

This Bill amends provisions related to political signs.

Discussion: The sponsor stated that the Bill requires any political sign larger than 24 x 18 inches to include a disclosure identifying who paid for the sign. The disclosure must be reasonably legible and placed next to the sign. The sponsor explained that the Bill would prohibit attaching or affixing any object to a political sign, including another political sign, in a way that hides, blocks, obscures, alters, or misrepresents the message, and that doing so would constitute a violation of Utah Code. In those circumstances, any member of the public may remove the offending sign.

The Bill also prohibits attaching political signs to utility poles, light poles, electrical utility boxes, traffic lights, railroad signs, or signals. The sponsor noted that this prohibition is already consistent across municipal codes but not statewide, and that the Bill would make it uniform in state law. Political signs must be removed no later than 14 calendar days after an election. If they are not removed within that period, any person may remove and dispose of the sign. If a city confiscates signs for violating local ordinances or state law, the city must provide a location where the removed signs are being stored and notify the campaign so the signs can be retrieved.

If violations occur three or more times during an election cycle, the city may begin charging a fee for the pickup and storage of signs.

A representative from the Utah Municipal Clerks Association spoke in support of the Bill.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

N/V:

Outcome: HB 33 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: HB 73 - Public Employee Retaliatory Action Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Walter

Floor Sponsor: Senator McCay

UASD Position: Track

This Bill amends the Utah Protection of Public Employees Act

Discussion: The sponsor stated that the Bill modifies the definition of retaliatory action by an employer to include filing a complaint, when done in violation of the whistle-blowing statute, with a licensing authority for an employee's profession or other type of work. There was no public comment or discussion by the Committee.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: HB 73 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation and was placed on the consent calendar.