

House Revenue and Taxation Committee

01/29/2026

Bill: HB 325 - Government Records Classification Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Shepherd

Floor Sponsor: Senator Stratton

UASD Position: Track

This Bill modifies provisions related to the classification of certain government records.

Discussion:

Yeas:

Nays:

N/V:

Outcome: The Bill was not heard in Committee today.

Bill: HB 236 - Truth in Taxation Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Peterson

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Track

This Bill addresses property tax increases through truth in taxation.

Discussion: The sponsor stated that the intent of the Bill is to involve the public earlier in the truth and taxation process and to ensure that hearings are more meaningful by allowing elected officials to respond to public comment. HB 236 requires that a fiscal year taxing entity that levies a tax rate exceeding its certified tax rate make a preliminary statement in a public meeting between May 1 and Jun 8 regarding the consideration of a tax increase before adopting the annual budget. The Bill requires taxing entities proposing a property tax increase to adopt and utilize a tentative operating budget that does not include revenue derived from the proposed tax increase before the increase is approved, and to present an alternative tentative budget that includes the additional revenue that would be derived if the proposed tax increase were approved. The notice given to the public and the State Tax Commission must include the approximate amount and intended use of the additional revenue. This preliminary public meeting is intended to provide earlier notice to the public.

After declaring the budget, the entity must adopt two budgets: a base budget that reflects prior-year certified tax rate, eligible new growth, and any other existing revenue sources that does not include the additional ad valorem tax revenue that would be generated by the taxing entity's proposed tax rate increase; and an alternative budget that reflects a proposed tax increase that shows the differences in services or expenditures between the two. Under the Bill, the entity would operate on the base budget beginning July 1. Notices would be issued in mid-July, and the truth and taxation hearing would occur in August. Following the hearing, if the entity proceeds

with a tax increase, it may adopt the alternative budget and make amendments based on public feedback, up to the proposed tax increase amount or at a lower level.

The Utah Taxpayers Association, the Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs for the Utah Chamber, and Utah Association of Counties (“UAC”) spoke in support of the Bill. The Utah League of Cities and Towns (the “League”) has not taken a position but is working towards support.

Yeas: 10

Nays: 0

N/V: 1

Outcome: HB 236 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 1st substitute HB 282 - Transportation Earmark Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Dailey-Provost

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Oppose

This Bill reduces a sales and use tax earmark that directs revenue into the Transportation Investment Fund of 2005.

Discussion: The sponsor stated that current Code earmarks 24% of the General Fund for transportation funding. The Bill reduces that earmark to 17%, retaining the remaining 7% in the General Fund. The sponsor stated that this change would return approximately \$353 million to the General Fund and legislative appropriation. Committee members asked questions regarding the potential impact on transportation funding, including whether the reduction would require the state to borrow funds for transportation infrastructure needs. The sponsor responded that funds could still be allocated to transportation from the General Fund but that allocation decisions should be left to the appropriations committees. A follow-up question was asked regarding how the 7% figure was determined. The sponsor responded that it was intended as an initial adjustment. There was no public comment, and the Bill did not pass out of the Committee.

Yeas: 11

Nays: 0

N/V: 0

Outcome: 1st Substitute HB 282 was held in Committee.