

Bill: 1st substitute SB 139 – Notary Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Musselman

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Track

This Bill amends provisions of the Notaries Public Reform Act.

Discussion: Senator Musselman presented the Bill, explaining that current law does not require notaries to maintain a journal. This Bill would require a notary to maintain a journal. There are two exceptions for that requirement for law firms and title companies. The Bill also requires individuals seeking notarization to present a valid, unexpired form of identification. In circumstances where an individual does not have this form of identification, such as in a nursing home, an administrator may attest to the person's identity.

Senator Weiler spoke in support of the Bill. Senator Sandall raised concerns about the declining number of notaries and the challenges associated with notarization requirements. The sponsor responded that the Bill is intended to formalize existing best practices and is not designed to impose excessive burdens. Senator Sandall also asked about the specific requirements for maintaining a journal. An Office Administrator from the Lieutenant Governor's Office explained that journal entries would include the individual's name, the last four digits of their identification number, the type of notarization performed, and the individual's signature. The journal would be required to be retained for ten years.

A member of the public testified in opposition, expressing concern about the Bill. The Committee adopted the 1st substitute.

Yeas: 8

Nays: 0

N/V: 0

Outcome: 1st substitute SB 139 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 4th substitute HB 65 – Construction Code Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Peterson

Floor Sponsor: Senator Vickers

UASD Position: Support

This Bill modifies the State Construction Code.

Discussion: Representative Peterson presented the 4th substitute of the Bill, explaining that it incorporates updates to Utah's construction and energy codes following a comprehensive review process. The Committee adopted the 4th substitute. The Bill includes requirements for the use of

ultra-low nitrogen oxide (NOx) water heaters in designated non-attainment areas and establishes a July 1 effective date. The sponsor stated that the Bill also allows for significant cost savings in concrete tilt-up construction and modifies certain energy code provisions.

The sponsor clarified that the energy code changes apply only to residential construction and not to commercial buildings. He explained that the Bill replaces a best-practices standard with a more enforceable minimum standard. The Bill also allows existing insulation that is in good working condition to remain in place and provides that if construction work is being performed under the International Residential Code (“IRC”), inspectors may not require unrelated parts of the building to be brought up to code unless they are directly affected by the project.

Senator Weiler questioned the requirement for ultra-low NOx water heaters in attainment areas. Senator Musselman asked about how remodeling standards would be applied, and the sponsor clarified that inspectors cannot require portions of a structure that are not being remodeled to be updated to current code. Senator Cullimore questioned the air leakage testing requirements, and it was explained that those standards differ between residential and commercial buildings.

The Utah Home Builders Association, Building Science West, Utah Clean Energy, the Division of Air Quality, and the Associated General Contractors of Utah testified in support of the Bill.

Yeas: 7
Nays: 0
N/V: 1

Outcome: 4th substitute HB 65 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.