

2/4/2026

Senate Floor Time

Bill: 1st substitute SB 19 – Digital Evidence Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Weiler

Floor Sponsor: Representative Wilcox

UASD Position: Track and amended

This Bill concerns digital evidence examination of a mobile device.

Discussion: The sponsor presented the Bill, explaining that it addresses the significant backlog at the Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory (“RCFL”). The Bill would require local law enforcement agencies to conduct their own cell phone forensic analysis or obtain those services through another qualified entity, rather than relying on RCFL. The sponsor stated that this change would reduce delays in obtaining digital evidence and improve the efficiency of criminal investigations. The sponsor further clarified that under the Bill, RCFL would continue to handle forensic analysis for laptops and iPads, while local agencies would be responsible for cell phones. This would limit RCFL’s workload and allow it to focus on more complex devices.

Senator Riebe questioned the impact of the Bill on the League of Cities and Towns, noting that the Bill removes a small fee previously paid by local municipalities. The sponsor responded that there is no fiscal note associated with the Bill and that local agencies would be expected to either develop their own forensic capabilities or partner with another entity to meet the new requirements.

Yeas: 26

Nays: 1

N/V: 2

Outcome: 1st substitute SB 19 passed out of the Senate.

Bill: 1st substitute HB 45 – Fire Code Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Peterson

Floor Sponsor: Senator Vickers

UASD Position: Support

This Bill modifies the State Fire Code Act.

Discussion: The sponsor presented the Bill. There was no further discussion.

Yeas: 25

Nays: 0

N/V: 4

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 45 passed the second reading and will be read for a third time in the Senate.

Bill: HB 19 – Drinking Water Utilities Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Jack

Floor Sponsor: Senator Balderree

UASD Position: Track and amend

This Bill addresses security at drinking water facilities.

Discussion: Senator Balderree presented the Bill. There was no further discussion.

Yeas: 23

Nays: 0

N/V: 6

Outcome: HB 19 passed the second reading and will be read for a third time in the Senate.

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: Senator Vickers presented the Bill. Senator Kwan questioned the distinction between a sign and an advertisement, particularly regarding the requirement that the name of the individual or group that paid for the sign be visible on the sign or advertisement. It was clarified that the disclosure must be clearly visible to a person viewing the sign. Senator Kwan asked where in the Bill it specifies that the disclosure must be visible, and the sponsor indicated that the language requires the information to be readable at the point of viewing. Senator Weiler questioned how first-time candidates would be made aware of these new requirements, and it was explained that counties would be responsible for informing candidates. Senator Riebe questioned whether the disclosure must appear on the front or back of an advertisement, and Senator Brammer raised concerns about how the Bill would apply to signage placed on city-owned park strips. Senator McCay suggested a friendly amendment to clarify differences between pro-candidate and anti-candidate signage. Senator Buss questioned how the disclosure requirements would apply to paid mailings.

Yeas: 27

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: HB 33 passed the second reading and will be read for a third time in the Senate.

Bill: HB 73 – Public Employee Retaliatory Action Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Walter

Floor Sponsor: Senator McCay

UASD Position: Track and Amend

This Bill amends the Utah Protection of Public Employees Act.

Discussion: Senator McCay presented the Bill. There was no further discussion.

Yeas: 24

Nays: 0

N/V: 5

Outcome: HB 73 passed the 2nd reading, was placed on the 3rd reading calendar, and was tabled until the state budget is adopted.
