

House Government Operations Committee
02/06/2026

Bill: 1st substitute HB 429 - Special Districts Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Pierucci

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Oppose

This Bill addresses withdrawal of a county or municipality from a special district under certain circumstances.

Discussion: The sponsor presented the 1st substitute, which was adopted by the Committee. She explained that the substitute Bill removes the provision related to the Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Area (“SLVLESA”) and instead focuses on trash collection districts in counties of the first class. The Bill establishes a clear process for municipalities to withdraw from a trash collection district. The sponsor said it creates a method for a city in a county of the first class to initiate and complete withdrawal from a garbage disposal district and prohibits the district from incurring debt, issuing bonds, or taking on other financial obligations during the withdrawal process. The sponsor explained that there are two ways a municipality could withdraw. One option would allow the municipality and the district to mutually create a withdrawal procedure. The other option would require a feasibility study conducted on behalf of the city within 90 days, followed by a public hearing and the adoption of a resolution at a public meeting to withdraw from the district.

Committee members asked whether the Bill affects other special districts, and the sponsor responded that it does not. Another question focused on why the state was not handling the issue, and the sponsor replied that the Bill represents the legislature’s approach to addressing the matter by changing the withdrawal process for the Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District (“WFWRD”). The lobbyist for Magna City, the Mayor of Herriman, and a former WFWRD board member representing Herriman spoke in support. LeGrand Bitter with UASD thanked the sponsor for working with the Association and said he looks forward to continuing to work with the sponsor, Herriman, and WFWRD to find positive solutions. The Chair of WFWRD spoke in opposition, highlighting the problematic provisions and stating that WFWRD has been working with Herriman City under the current statutory withdrawal process.

Yeas: 10

Nays: 1

N/V: 1

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 429 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 1st substitute HB 391 - Vacancy Replacement Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Shepherd

Floor Sponsor: Senator Stratton

UASD Position: Track

This Bill addresses vacancies in elected office.

Discussion: The sponsor stated that the Bill defines the term “interim vacancy period” as the time between a general election and the start of a newly elected officeholder’s term. The Bill requires certain vacancies in elected office to be filled by an individual selected by the political party of which the prior officeholder was a member at the time the prior officeholder was last elected or appointed. This includes vacancies in the office of a United States Senator, state legislator, or State Board of Education member, which would be filled by the Governor, and vacancies in a county office, which would be filled by a county legislative body.

For vacancies in a municipal office, local school board office, or elected special district office that occur during an interim vacancy period, the Bill prohibits the local legislative body from appointing an individual to fill the vacancy until the interim vacancy period ends. The Bill also establishes a 30-day replacement window after an individual is elected.

Committee members raised questions about whether voters elect a person or a party and how voter intent is determined. The sponsor responded that voters elect the person, but that person’s party affiliation is part of the choice voters make. Members also asked about the process for selecting a replacement if an officeholder resigns. The sponsor explained that the process depends on the office and the party, but generally the delegates of the resigned member’s political party hold an election to choose the replacement. Several committee members expressed confusion about the need for the Bill. Utah Legislative Watch and a member of the public spoke in support, while the League of Women Voters and a member of the public spoke in opposition. A motion to hold this Bill in Committee failed with a 6 – 5 vote.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 4

N/V: 1

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 391 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: HB 396 - Public Project Subcontractor Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Burton

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Track

This Bill modifies disclosure requirements for subcontractors.

Discussion: The sponsor stated that the Bill enacts a new workers’ compensation insurance attestation requirement for an employer seeking a zero estimated exposure policy, including a mandatory signed statement and a criminal fraud warning. The Bill also clarifies enforcement authority and penalty structures related to unemployment insurance reporting, collections, liens, and warrants. It creates new compliance and disclosure obligations for subcontractors working on public construction projects, including requirements for employee reporting and disclosures related to zero estimated exposure policies. Additionally, the Bill requires subcontractors on

public projects to provide employee information to the Division of Professional Licensing and expands the definition of unprofessional conduct to include a failure to comply with the newly enacted subcontractor requirements. Multiple contractor companies, Workers Compensation Insurance Association, Pete King Core, and Riverfront Roofing spoke in support of the Bill.

Yeas: 11

Nays: 0

N/V: 1

Outcome: HB 396 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.