

House Political Subdivisions Committee

2/6/2026

Bill: HB 425 – Local Government Fees Amendments

Sponsor: Representative K. Peterson

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Track with concern and amend

This Bill modifies and enacts provisions related to municipal and county fees.

Discussion: The sponsor explained that the Bill addresses transportation utility fees. The Bill prohibits local governments from charging general utility fees for broadband and public safety services. If a transportation utility fee is imposed, the Bill requires a formal study of the system, including transportation counts, system impacts, and a differentiated fee structure. It also requires a public process to adopt the fee and the creation of a dedicated account with clearly defined allowable uses. Once implemented, the fee must be reviewed annually to evaluate its effectiveness and its relationship to transportation outcomes. The Bill establishes the first fee in statute that includes a sunset provision, requiring the fee to expire every 10 years unless reauthorized.

The Executive Director of the Utah League of Cities and Towns, a representative from Intermountain Health, and a representative from the Wasatch Front Regional Council spoke in support of the Bill. In addition, Representatives Teuscher, Hansen, and Dunnigan also spoke in support.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

N/V: 5

Outcome: HB 425 was passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: HB 319 – Electronic Records Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Cutler

Floor Sponsor: Senator Harper

UASD Position: Support

This Bill modifies provisions relating to county recording of documents and digital authentication.

Discussion: The sponsor explained that the Bill modifies provisions related to county recording of documents and digital authentication of records. It updates existing law to allow digital authentication of county records as an alternative to traditional notarization, which means secure, tamper-evident technology can be used to verify documents. Under the Bill, county recorders may accept digitally authenticated records if the county obtains approval from the State Archives. This approval process involves submitting proposals that show how the digital system will work, including security and compliance with retention standards. The State Archives, in

consultation with the Division of Technology Services, will establish the technical standards and review county proposals. The intent is to create a process for optional digital authentication of records that provides an alternative to traditional notarized documents while ensuring the integrity and long-term preservation of those digital records.

The Utah Land Title Association spoke in opposition to the Bill, citing concerns about the responsibility of title insurance companies to ensure proper authenticity and identity verification in transactions. The Vice President of the Utah Association of Counties and the State Archivist spoke in support of the Bill. Representative Peterson described the Bill as a tool to move the state closer to effective digital recordkeeping solutions. Representatives Arthur and Teuscher also spoke in support, while Representative Hansen expressed concern that the Bill remains an incomplete solution.

Yeas: 9

Nays: 1

N/V: 2

Outcome: HB 319 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation

Bill: 1st substitute HB 328 – Water Usage Modifications

Sponsor: Representative Okerlund

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Track

This Bill addresses the use of overhead spray irrigation to irrigate nonfunctional turf.

Discussion: The sponsor, along with the Acting Director of the Division of Water Resources, explained that the Bill limits the use of overhead sprinklers on nonfunctional turf in new commercial construction. The Bill does not apply to existing developments. This is part of the recommendations from the Great Salt Lake Basin study. The Bill requires developers to be notified of the applicable standards, while enforcement remains optional for local governments.

The Utah Division of Water Rights, Central Utah Water Conservancy District, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, and the Utah League of Cities and Towns spoke in support of the Bill. Several members of the public spoke in opposition.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 2

N/V: 3

Outcome: HB 328 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
