

Senate Government Operations and Political Subdivisions Committee
02/19/2026

Bill: 1st substitute SB 264 - Elected Official Publicity Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Pitcher

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Track

This Bill creates an exception to the 60-day restriction on certain publicly funded mass communications.

Discussion: The sponsor presented the 1st substitute, which was adopted by the Committee. The Bill creates an exception to Utah's existing restrictions on publicly funded mass communications prior to an election by exempting certain government-funded communications from the 60-day limitation period, allowing broader use of public resources for official messaging. Overall, the Bill clarifies when and how elected officials may use government-funded communication channels in an effort to reduce uncertainty about what communications are permitted. It allows a candidate's photograph to be used in limited circumstances as long as any other public candidates shown are treated in the same manner. The intent is to ensure equal and consistent treatment among candidates. There was no Committee discussion, and no member of the public commented.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: 1st substitute SB 264 passed out of Committee with a favorable recommendation.