

House Transportation Committee
2/23/2026

Bill: 4th substitute SB 151 – Public Safety Funding Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Harper

Floor Sponsor: Representative Pierucci

UASD Position: Support

This Bill modifies provisions related to funding for public safety employees.

Discussion: The sponsor, speaking to the 4th substitute which was adopted by the Committee, explained that due to past and ongoing highway and roadway construction and renovations, the Utah Highway Patrol is currently short approximately 36 troopers. The Bill would use part of the fire insurance premium tax to fund three-quarters of the additional troopers needed.

Representative Thurston questioned whether this would result in an additional tax or fee. It was clarified that the Bill would be funded through existing revenue streams. Representative M. Petersen questioned why the Bill funds only three-quarters of the need rather than the full amount. The sponsor explained that this represents the maximum funding allowable without raising taxes or fees. The Colonel of the Utah Highway Patrol spoke in support of the Bill, as did the President of the Professional Firefighters of Utah and the Utah Fire Chiefs Association. The 4th substitute was adopted.

Yeas: 8

Nays: 0

N/V: 4

Outcome: 4th substitute SB 151 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
