

Senate Government Operations and Political Subdivisions Committee
02/23/2026

Bill: SB 299 - Candidate Name Modifications

Sponsor: Senator Pitcher

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Track

This Bill addresses the appearance of a candidate's name on a ballot.

Discussion: The sponsor stated that the Bill is follow-up legislation to 2025's SB 54. Since its implementation, several practical issues have arisen. The Bill addresses those issues by modifying the conditions and requirements for a ballot to list a candidate using a variation of the candidate's name, or nickname, and allows an individual to run using their middle or maiden name.

Senator Vickers asked about the reference to being "as known" in the county and what the intent of that language was. The sponsor responded that this language is carried forward from last year and requires a candidate running under a nickname to submit a signed affidavit from five individuals affirming that this is the name by which they know the candidate.

The Utah Lieutenant Governor's Office spoke in support of the Bill, noting that it addresses issues they have encountered in administering elections. The Utah Association of County Clerks Legislative Committee stated they do not have an official position but expressed appreciation for the Bill.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: SB 299 passed out of Committee with a favorable recommendation.