

Bill: 2nd substitute HB 41 – Construction and Fire Codes Amendments

Sponsor: Representative T. Peterson

Floor Sponsor: Senator Vickers

UASD Position: Support

This Bill modifies the State Construction Code.

Discussion: The sponsor explained the Bill revises the State Construction Code to adopt the 2024 edition of the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC) and specifically deletes Section 602, which in the IWUIC is the section that would have required automatic fire sprinkler systems in certain new buildings in WUI zones. By removing that section, the state does not impose a statewide automatic sprinkler mandate for new construction in WUI areas. Instead, WUI Code adoption is structured so that local jurisdictions may still choose to adopt sprinkler requirements by ordinance if they decide to do so under their own local amendment authority. The Bill offers direction to cities and counties on how to draw WUI maps.

Senator Vickers questioned how municipalities would draw their maps to create additional WUI zones. The sponsor clarified that cities may add or remove land from WUI zones with the appropriate approval. Senator Musselman further clarified that the removal of sprinkler requirements would apply to only to residential buildings and local jurisdictions may choose to still require sprinklers for residential homes within WUI zones. The Utah Homebuilders Association and the Utah State Fire Chiefs Association spoke in support of the Bill.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: 2nd substitute HB 41 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
