

House Transportation Committee

Prepared by the Utah Association of Special Districts

02/26/2026

Bill: 1st substitute HB 398 - Towing Dispatch Amendments

Sponsor: Representative T. Peterson

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Track

This Bill changes the requirements for products that tow truck dispatch vendors can provide to tow truck motor carriers.

Discussion:

Yeas:

Nays:

N/V:

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 398 was not heard in Committee today.

Bill: 1st substitute SB 197 - Transportation Funding and Governance Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Harper

Floor Sponsor: Representative Christofferson

UASD Position: Track

This Bill amends provisions related to the governance of a large public transit district and financial reporting of public transit districts.

Discussion: The sponsor presented the 1st substitute, which incorporates HB 585 and establishes a new source of revenue for transit funding by allocating 5% of state sales tax revenue to transit. The substitute addresses both governance and revenue. The 1st substitute was adopted by the Committee. The Committee adopted House Amendment 1 which deletes “board” and adds “commission” on line 876. The sponsor explained that the Bill repeals the current structure of a large public transit district’s (Utah Transit Authority) Board of Trustees and replaces it with a Transit Commission. The Bill provides for the selection process, appointment, and duties of the Transit Commission, reallocates certain responsibilities between the Executive Director and the Transit Commission, outlines the transition to the new governance structure, changes the appointment process so that the Executive Director is appointed by the Governor, and repeals the requirement that a large public transit district maintain a Local Advisory Council.

Representative Peterson asked whether the projected \$75 million in 2034 represented funding for that year alone or a cumulative total. The sponsor clarified that it reflects the additional funding projected for that year. The Utah Transit Authority, Utah Public Transportation Association, Utah Chamber of Commerce, and the Utah League of Cities and Towns spoke in support of the Bill, with discussion focusing on future transit projects and associated costs. The Amalgamated Transit Union opposed the Bill, expressing concern about how the changes would affect UTA’s

day-to-day operations. Representative Ivory asked whether the Bill would bind future legislatures regarding transportation funding. The sponsor responded that it would not, explaining that the annual appropriation process does not remove money from the Transportation Fund unless the Legislature intentionally does so. Representative Ivory expressed concern that it could be difficult to redirect funds in the future if needed. He is worried that this Bill would obligate future generations to financial commitments the state may not be able to sustain. He stated that the Bill would increase the deficit and interest obligations.

Yeas: 11

Nays: 1

N/V: 0

Outcome: 1st substitute SB 197, as amended, passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.