

Bill: 1st substitute SB 324 – Outcome-based Investment Grant Pilot Program

Sponsor: Senator Musselman

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: TBD

This Bill establishes the Outcome-based Investment Grant Pilot Program to provide grant funding for projects using measurable outcomes.

Discussion: Senate Bill 324 establishes a pilot framework for outcome-based investment grants in Utah, creating a structured program through which state funds may be awarded based on measurable results rather than traditional funding methods. The Bill outlines eligibility criteria, the grant award process, oversight and reporting requirements, and program administration by the appropriate state entities. The sponsor explained that the Bill emphasizes measuring outcomes and establishes an adaptive framework designed to mature over time. The sponsor stated that the legislation defines specific upfront outcomes, provides for independent evaluation, and directs the Legislative Auditor General to establish evaluation standards. The 1st substitute, which the Committee adopted, adds two appropriations to support the program.

Senator Winterton questioned the scope of the Bill. The sponsor clarified that the legislation creates a pilot program through which other grant programs may be funneled. The sponsor further explained that the Bill establishes a framework for post-distribution analysis and ensures that grantees understand the stringent criteria by which grant success will be evaluated.

A representative from the Utah System of Higher Education (“USHE”) and the City Strong Foundation spoke in support of the Bill. Senator Plumb questioned the distribution outlined in the fiscal note. The sponsor clarified how the financial allocation would be utilized.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

N/V: 0

Outcome: 1st substitute SB 324 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 2nd substitute HB 416 – Firefighter Cancer Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Teuscher

Floor Sponsor: Senator Sandall

UASD Position: Support

This Bill creates the Firefighter Cancer Benefit Trust Fund.

Discussion: The sponsor explained that the Bill establishes the Firefighter Cancer Benefit Trust Fund, a private-purpose trust fund intended to support firefighters diagnosed with presumptive cancers. The Bill directs certain insurance premium tax revenues to be used first to fund the firefighter long-term disability program and to strengthen the Firefighters' Retirement Trust Fund before any remaining funds may be used for cancer-related purposes. The Bill creates a Firefighter Cancer Benefit Trust Fund Board of Trustees and outlines its composition, duties, and reporting requirements. The Board is tasked with studying and recommending how the trust fund may be used to reduce workers' compensation premiums for firefighter policies and to provide financial assistance to firefighters with presumptive cancer diagnoses while their workers' compensation claims are pending. The Bill authorizes the fund to receive appropriations, donations, and grants, allows payment of administrative costs, and requires the board to consult with stakeholders and report recommendations to the Executive Appropriations Committee.

Chief Smith, representing the Utah Fire Chiefs Association, spoke in support of the Bill and highlighted the significant number of firefighters diagnosed with presumptive cancers. The Utah Local Governments Trust, the Professional Firefighters of Utah, and the Fire Chief of Lehi spoke in support of the Bill.

Senator Vickers questioned how the proposed trust fund would interact with the workers' compensation system and whether there would be overlap between the two. The sponsor clarified how the trust fund would coordinate with existing workers' compensation processes and explained that the intent is to provide interim assistance without duplicating benefits.

Yeas: 6
Nays: 0
N/V: 1

Outcome: 2nd substitute HB 416 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 3rd substitute HB 147 – Government Form Submission Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Teuscher

Floor Sponsor: Senator Vickers

UASD Position: Track and amend

This Bill addresses when a government entity is required to provide an electronic filing option to a person submitting information to the government entity.

Discussion: The sponsor explained that the Bill requires state and local government entities to provide an electronic option for a person to complete and submit forms, records, or other information, rather than requiring an in-person appearance or physical copy, subject to specific exceptions. The electronic option may include completing and signing a form online, downloading and electronically submitting a completed form, entering information online, uploading documents, or sending information via email. The Bill defines terms and outlines exceptions to the requirement, including instances where federal or state law or court rule prohibits electronic submission, where the person is legally required to appear in person, where

fingerprints are required for criminal background checks, and for incarcerated individuals. The Bill takes effect on July 1, 2027. (A 4th substitute is anticipated that would exempt governmental entities with revenue and expenditures of less than one million dollars from the Bill's requirements until 2030.)

Senator Vickers questioned whether there were any types of paperwork not included within the listed exceptions. The sponsor responded to clarify the scope of the exceptions provided in the Bill. No members of the public testified on the legislation.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: 3rd substitute HB 147 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 3rd substitute HB 391 – Vacancy Replacement Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Sheperd

Floor Sponsor: Senator Stratton

UASD Position: Track

This Bill addresses vacancies in elected office.

Discussion: The Bill modifies how vacancies in elected offices are handled by clarifying procedural steps during an interim vacancy period and adjusting the authority and timing for filling those vacancies. The Bill defines key terms such as “interim vacancy period”, prohibits a local legislative body from appointing a replacement while certain interim offices exist, and outlines updated processes for filling vacancies in county, municipal, and special district offices, as well as other specified elected positions. The changes aim to provide a clearer and more uniform framework for vacancy replacements in election law and government operations across political subdivisions. No members of the public spoke to the Bill.

Yeas: 3

Nays: 2

N/V: 2

Outcome: 3rd substitute HB 391 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: HJR 23 – Joint Rules Resolution - Policy Development and Impact

Sponsor: Representative Wilcox

Floor Sponsor: Senator Fillmore

UASD Position: Track

This Joint Rules Resolution enacts provisions related to policy development and impact.

Discussion: The sponsor explained that this Joint Resolution establishes a requirement to define measurable metrics for evaluating the success of legislation at the time a Bill file is opened, with the purpose of clearly specifying the intent and anticipated outcomes of a Bill at its inception.

Senator Vickers questioned whether additional legislation governing the Bill creation process is necessary. In response, the sponsor clarified that the measure is intended to provide greater clarity regarding legislative intent rather than to add procedural burdens. Senator Winterton spoke to the Bill, noting that lawmakers may sometimes open Bill files with a fully developed and comprehensive concept. The Executive Director of Utah Legislative Watch spoke in support of the Bill.

Yeas: 6
Nays: 0
N/V: 1

Outcome: HJR 23 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 1st substitute HB 405 – State Purchasing Reserve Funding

Sponsor: Representative Ivory
Floor Sponsor: Senator Johnson

UASD Position: Track

This Bill modifies provisions related to state purchasing.

Discussion: HB 405 was not heard in the Committee.

Yeas:
Nays:
N/V:

Outcome: HB 405 was not heard in the Committee.

Bill: 1st substitute HB 396 – Public Project Subcontractor Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Burton
Floor Sponsor: Senator Brammer

UASD Position: Track

This Bill modifies disclosure requirements for subcontractors.

Discussion: The sponsor, speaking to the 1st substitute, explained that the Bill applies exclusively to public construction projects and makes changes to disclosure and documentation requirements for subcontractors on those projects. The Bill defines terms related to subcontractor work and workers' compensation insurance, requires certain disclosures by subcontractors and contractors on public projects, and addresses the reporting of insurance coverage and subcontractor information to increase transparency and accountability for compliance with

workers' compensation and project documentation requirements. The sponsor explained that the intent of this legislation is to address concerns regarding losses in the workers' compensation system due to fraudulent claims and to increase transparency and accountability on job sites. The Bill requires contractors to sign a fraud notice and, upon request, provide a signed list of employees working at a project site. The Committee adopted the 1st substitute.

The Pete King Corp. spoke to concerns regarding the Bill. A representative of the Western States Regional Council of Carpenters and Dave Spatafore, representing several contracting and construction organizations, spoke in support of the Bill.

Senator Sandall questioned the potential administrative burden on the Utah Division of Professional Licensing ("DOPL"). The sponsor clarified that subcontractors would be required to provide the name and employer of any workers present on the job site.

Yeas: 4

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 396 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
