
Bill: 1st substitute HB 76 - Data Center Water Transparency Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Koford

Floor Sponsor: Senator Sandall

UASD Position: Support

This Bill addresses reporting related to water use and data centers.

Discussion:

Yeas:

Nays:

N/V:

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 76 was not heard in Committee today.

Bill: 2nd substitute HB 247 - Great Salt Lake Related Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Ward

Floor Sponsor: Senator Sandall

UASD Position: Track

This Bill addresses activities that benefit the Great Salt Lake.

Discussion: The sponsor stated that the Bill redirects revenue generated by the brine shrimp tax from the Species Protection Account to the Sovereign Lands Management Account. The Bill outlines how revenue in the Sovereign Lands Management Account is to be expended and addresses the timing for certification of information related to severance taxes and certain Great Salt Lake (“Lake”) extraction operators. The sponsor explained that the money may be spent on activities that directly benefit the Lake, such as acquiring or leasing water rights to increase inflows and supporting projects related to the lake’s brine shrimp population and ecosystem health. By changing the destination and permitted uses of this revenue, the Bill aims to ensure that funds derived from resources associated with the Lake are used more directly for its management, protection, and long-term sustainability under the authority of the Utah Legislature. The sponsor explained that implementation is delayed until July 2027 to ensure the transition occurs as intended.

The Great Salt Lake Brine Shrimp Cooperative spoke in support of the Bill but expressed concerns about the delayed implementation date. The Utah Mining Association and the Endangered Species Mitigation Fund spoke in support of the Bill, noting that the later implementation date allows sufficient time for revenues to materialize. The Utah Petroleum Association, the Species Protection Account Advisory Board, and the Youth Coalition for the Great Salt Lake expressed support for the Bill.

Yeas: 4
Nays: 0
N/V: 3

Outcome: 2nd substitute HB 247 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

UNASSD