

Bill: HB 584 - State Employee Leave Amendments

Sponsor: Representative T. Peterson

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Track

This Bill modifies retirement benefits for state employees.

Discussion: The sponsor stated that the Bill establishes the Unused Sick Leave Retirement Option Program III (“Program III”) for state employees. Under Program III, a state employee hired on or after January 4, 2014, would receive a payment equal to 50% of the value of the employee’s unused sick leave hours, calculated at the employee’s rate of pay at the time of retirement. The Bill also allows a state employee with unused Program I or Program II sick leave hours to make a one-time, irrevocable election to convert those hours into Program III hours eligible for the 50% payout. The sponsor emphasized that employees will not receive this benefit if they voluntarily leave employment before retirement, noting that the program is intended to support retention within state service and incentivize employees who have reached retirement eligibility to retire.

Representative Cutler asked how the proposal interacts with SB 60. The sponsor explained that the Bill addresses sick leave banked from 2014 forward, which is the year SB 60 went into effect. Representative Hawkins asked whether an employee who retires, receives the payout, and later returns to work in the public sector would still retain the benefit. The sponsor responded that once an employee retires and receives the payout, they would still retain those funds even if they later return to public employment. Representative Cutler asked if this fiscal note had to be funded by EAC to be effective. The sponsor said that it would.

The Utah Public Employees Association spoke in support of the Bill.

Yeas: 4

Nays: 1

N/V: 5

Outcome: HB 584 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 1st substitute SB 275 - State-Endorsed Digital Identity Program Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Cullimore

Floor Sponsor: Representative Cutler

UASD Position: Track

This Bill creates the State-Endorsed Digital Identity Program.

Discussion: The Committee adopted the Senate Amendment 1 and the 1st substitute. The amendments are considered technical “clean up”. The sponsor stated that the Bill codifies a

Digital Identity Bill of Rights and creates the State-Endorsed Digital Identity Program within the Department of Government Operations. The Bill establishes requirements for state-endorsed digital identities, including identity proofing standards, and outlines responsibilities for governmental entities, health care providers, digital wallet providers, verifiers, and relying parties. It also creates a duty of loyalty related to the processing of identity attributes, provides complaint and enforcement procedures, and requires a one-time audit by the Office of the Legislative Auditor General.

The Libertas Institute, Utah Legislative Watch, Utah Block Chain Coalition, Digital Trust Ventures, and a member of the public spoke in support of the Bill.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: 1st substitute SB 275, as amended, passed out of Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 1st substitute SB 232 - Regulatory Impacts on Families

Sponsor: Senator Fillmore

Floor Sponsor: Representative Ballard

UASD Position: Track

This Bill requires state agencies, counties, municipalities, and local school boards to consider the impact of certain governmental actions on families.

Discussion: The sponsor stated that the Bill recognizes that many state agencies engage in rulemaking and that local governments adopt policies that can have an impact on families. The Bill requires a state agencies, counties, municipalities, and school boards engaged in rulemaking to consider the impact a proposed rule may have on family health, stability, and formation. A county or municipality's failure to comply with these provisions does not invalidate an ordinance enacted by the legislative body or create a cause of action. There was no Committee discussion or public comment.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

N/V: 4

Outcome: 1st substitute SB 232 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.