

Bill: 1st substitute HB 534 – Firearm Immunity Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Ivory

Floor Sponsor: Senator Hinkins

UASD Position: Support

This Bill addresses immunity for certain firearm discharges.

Discussion: The sponsor explained that the Bill provides that a government entity may not be held liable if an individual discharges a firearm on the entity's premises.

Senator Blouin questioned the definition of "person" within the Bill. The sponsor clarified that an entity cannot carry or discharge a firearm. Senator Blouin further referenced line 37, noting that the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel drafting standards define "person" more broadly than an individual. Senator Blouin asked whether the broader definition could allow outside groups to avoid liability. The sponsor responded that the term "person" reflects standard drafting conventions used by legislative attorneys but expressed a willingness to continue working with Senator Blouin to further clarify the definition.

A representative of the Utah Association for Justice spoke in opposition to the Bill. A member of the public spoke in support of the legislation.

Yeas: 3

Nays: 1

N/V: 3

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 534 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
