

## Senate Floor Time

Prepared by the Utah Association of Special Districts

March 2, 2026

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### **Bill: 1st substitute HB 307 - Attorney Fees Amendments**

Sponsor: Representative Hollins

Floor Sponsor: Senator Brammer

**UASD Position: Support**

This Bill addresses attorney fees.

Discussion: The sponsor presented the Bill. There was no discussion.

Yeas: 27

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

**Outcome: 1st substitute HB 307 passed out of the Senate.**

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### **Bill: SB 299 - Candidate Name Modifications**

Sponsor: Senator Pitcher

Floor Sponsor:

**UASD Position: Track**

This Bill addresses the appearance of a candidate's name on a ballot.

Discussion: The sponsor presented the Bill. No further discussion ensued.

Yeas: 26

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

**Outcome: SB 299 passed out of the Senate.**

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### **Bill: 3rd substitute SB 97 - Tax Revenue Amendments**

Sponsor: Senator McCay

Floor Sponsor:

**UASD Position: Oppose and amend**

This Bill modifies provisions related to tax revenue.

Discussion: The sponsor presented the 3rd substitute to SB 97, explaining that the substitute establishes required reserve fund levels for cities that vary based on the size of the city's general fund budget. Under the substitute, cities with general fund budgets of \$50 million or more are required to maintain reserve funds equal to 25 percent of their revenue, cities with budgets between \$25 million and \$50 million must maintain reserves equal to 28 percent, and cities with

budgets under \$25 million must maintain reserves equal to 30 percent. The Senate adopted the 3rd substitute.

Senator Riebe asked about the provisions in lines 161–168 and how those provisions would affect older constituents. The sponsor explained that the substitute clarifies that residential rental homes are treated differently from primary residences for purposes of the residential property tax exemption, establishing a distinction between the tax treatment of a homeowner’s primary residence and separate rental units. If a homeowner rents out a portion of their home, such as a basement apartment, the property would still be considered a primary residence for the exemption and not subject to additional tax on that portion. However, properties that are solely used as rental units would be subject to a separate tax identification and not receive the primary residence exemption.

After the substitute was adopted by the Senate, the Bill was circled.

Yeas:

Nays:

N/V:

**Outcome: 3rd substitute SB 97 was adopted and circled.**

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**Bill: 3rd substitute HB 41 - Construction and Fire Codes Amendments**

Sponsor: Representative T. Peterson

Floor Sponsor: Senator Vickers

**UASD Position: Support**

This Bill modifies the State Construction Code.

Discussion: The sponsor presented the 3rd substitute for HB 41, which updates the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code adoption in the State Construction Code and delays the date on which counties begin assessing the annual fee on property owners of high-risk wildland urban interface property from January 1, 2026 to January 1, 2027. The substitute also adds a process requiring the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands to provide each county with a copy of the wildfire risk assessment mapping tool and explanation of its wildfire risk boundary determinations, allow counties to submit written recommended changes, and then either adopt those recommended changes or provide a written justification for modifying or rejecting them. The division is given explicit rulemaking authority to implement these notification and response requirements. The Senate adopted the 3rd substitute.

Senators Brammer and Owens spoke in support of the changes made in the 3rd substitute. Senator Riebe asked for further explanation regarding whether the Bill changes how structural liability is assessed for property owners. The sponsor clarified that the bill does not alter existing liability assessments for structures, which are governed by current policy and code, and that this topic is not addressed in the Bill. No further discussion ensued.

Yeas: 27  
Nays: 0  
N/V: 2

**Outcome: 3rd substitute HB 41 was adopted and passed out of the Senate. It will be returned to the House for concurrence.**

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**Bill: 1st substitute SB 252 - Water Usage at State-owned Facilities Amendments**

Sponsor: Senator Pitcher  
Floor Sponsor: Representative Koford  
**UASD Position: Track**

This Bill addresses water use at state government facilities.

Discussion: The sponsor motioned to circle the Bill.

Yeas:  
Nays:  
N/V:

**Outcome: 1st substitute SB 252 was circled**

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**Bill: 1st substitute SB 193 - State Legal Holiday Amendments**

Sponsor: Senator Stratton  
Floor Sponsor:  
**UASD Position: Track**

This Bill addresses state legal holidays and holy days.

Discussion: The sponsor presented the Bill. Senator Fillmore remarked that a similar Bill had been considered the previous year and suggested that the earlier version was preferable. Senator Riebe expressed concern that the proposal could create complications for school calendars. No further discussion ensued.

Yeas: 12  
Nays: 12  
N/V: 5

**Outcome: 1st substitute SB 193 failed to pass the second reading and will be filed.**

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**Bill: 1st substitute SB 324 - Outcome-based Investment Grant Pilot Framework**

Sponsor: Senator Musselman  
Floor Sponsor:  
**UASD Position: TBD**

This Bill establishes the Outcome-based Investment Grant Pilot Framework to provide a process for administering certain grant funding for projects using measurable outcomes.

Discussion: The sponsor presented the Bill. Senator Riebe asked about the \$9 million fiscal note, inquiring how much funding is currently available in the Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted Account, whether the amount was appropriate, and why the fiscal impact was set at \$9 million. The sponsor responded that the fiscal note reflects the funding allocated for the grants themselves, not the creation or administrative structure of the program, and clarified that the purpose of the Bill is to establish a structure to review and oversee that funding. No further discussion ensued.

Yeas: 18  
Nays: 9  
N/V: 2

**Outcome: 1st substitute SB 324 passed the second reading and will be read in the senate for a third time.**

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**Bill: SB 316 - Public Employee Attorney Fee Recovery Amendments**

Sponsor: Senator Pitcher

Floor Sponsor:

**UASD Position: Track**

This Bill amends a provision of law relating to the recovery of reasonable attorney fees and court costs incurred by an officer or employee of a public entity, under certain circumstances, to defend against criminal charges brought against the officer or employee in relation to the officer's or employee's public employment.

Discussion: The sponsor presented the Bill. No further discussion ensued.

Yeas: 20  
Nays: 2  
N/V: 7

**Outcome: SB 316 passed the second reading and will be read in the Senate for a third time.**

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**Bill: 3rd substitute HB 157 - Department of Natural Resources Amendments**

Sponsor: Representative Shipp

Floor Sponsor: Senator Stratton

**UASD Position: Track**

This Bill addresses provisions related to the Department of Natural Resources

Discussion: The sponsor presented the Bill. No further discussion ensued.

Yeas: 22

Nays: 0  
N/V: 7

**Outcome: 3rd substitute HB 157 passed the second reading and will be read in the Senate for a third time.**

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