

Bill: 1st substitute HB 511 – Procurement Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Shallenberger

Floor Sponsor: Senator Brammer

UASD Position: Track with concern

This Bill modifies provisions of Title 63G, Chapter 6a, Utah Procurement Code.

Discussion: The sponsor presented House Amendment 1, explaining that the amendment makes a technical correction. The Committee adopted the amendment. The sponsor stated that the Bill addresses the vendor scoring system used when evaluating contractors for government procurement projects and creates a preference for Utah-based companies. The sponsor explained that the Bill allows a qualifying Utah supplier to receive a 10 percent increase to the criteria score used in evaluating proposals, provided that the proposal remains competitive, and emphasized that the preference applies to the evaluation score rather than the contract price.

Senator Owens asked about the 10 percent preference included in the Bill. The sponsor clarified that the provision increases the evaluation score of qualifying Utah companies but does not alter the bid price submitted by the contractor. Senator Johnson spoke to the Bill, expressing support for Utah contractors, but raising concerns about structured favoritism that could elevate Utah-based companies in the scoring process. The sponsor referenced the definition of a Utah supplier in line 229 and explained that when multiple Utah-based contractors submit bids, they are evaluated equally. The sponsor also stated that the Bill includes provisions intended to prevent companies from “gaming” the system by prohibiting shell companies and requiring a business to have been established in Utah for at least one year. The sponsor noted that the proposal was developed in coordination with the State Procurement Office.

The sponsor further explained that additional preference points may be available for minority-owned and disadvantaged-owned businesses. Senator Millner expressed concern that those preferences could reduce emphasis on achieving the highest value at the lowest cost. Senator Johnson also raised concerns regarding the implications of providing preference to certain groups over others. A motion was made to hold the Bill in Committee.

Yeas: 3

Nays: 1

N/V: 2

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 511, as amended, was held in the Committee.

Bill: 6th substitute HB 44 – School Security Personnel Standards

Sponsor: Representative Wilcox

Floor Sponsor: Senator Millner

UASD Position: Support

This Bill provides amendments to school safety standards regarding requirements for various safety related personnel.

Discussion: The sponsor presented House Amendment 2 and House Amendment 3. He explained that House Amendment 2 clarifies that a principal or teacher may serve as a school guardian in accordance with Subsection 53G-8-701.5(3). House Amendment 3 modifies certain requirements applicable to local education agencies ("LEAs") so that they are permissive rather than mandatory. The Committee adopted both amendments.

The sponsor explained that the Bill expands the school guardian program by allowing special function officers to serve as school guardians and by allowing school employees, including principals and other school administrators, to participate in guardian training if they choose to do so. The Bill also provides for additional safety devices for school staff, delays certain implementation dates, and allows LEAs to develop policies governing participation in the program. The Bill includes a provision addressing coordination between local education agencies LEAs and law enforcement in a county of the first class for the training of school guardians. Under the Bill, the county security chief continues to be responsible for providing the training for school guardians. An LEA must coordinate with the county security chief and provide notice to the applicable local law enforcement agency regarding the number of officers requested to assist with training school guardians from schools within the LEA's jurisdiction. This provision establishes a process for communication and coordination related to school guardian training. Additional provisions require that individuals involved in a critical incident be placed on administrative leave and establish standards for visitor management within schools.

Senator Kwan raised concerns regarding a fiscal note of \$266,000 for panic alert devices for LEAs. The sponsor clarified that the funding had already been appropriated during the previous Legislative Session and that the fiscal note for the Bill is now \$0. Senator Stevenson spoke to the prior appropriation of funds for school security. No members of the public testified on the Bill.

Yeas: 4
Nays: 0
N/V: 2

Outcome: 6th substitute HB 44, as amended, passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
