

House Economic Development Committee

Prepared by the Utah Association of Special Districts

3/4/2026

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 explained that the Bill amends water conservation requirements for landscaping at state government facilities. The Bill requires a state agency to select low water-use turf when installing or replacing lawn or turf at a state government facility, unless the Utah Division of Water Resources determines that low water-use turf is impractical due to landscape conditions. The Bill also requires the Division of Facilities Construction and Management (“DFCM”) to conduct audits of landscape irrigation systems at state facilities to document irrigation distribution uniformity and identify corrective actions if a system does not achieve at least 75% distribution uniformity. The Bill authorizes the DFCM Director to incorporate these irrigation audits into existing facility condition audits.

Representative Shelley questioned the implementation date. The sponsor clarified that the irrigation distribution uniformity requirement would apply to irrigation systems installed on or after May 6. Representative Fiebia asked about the absence of a fiscal note related to the deficiency audits. The sponsor explained that these audits are already being conducted as part of existing facility management practices and noted that past efforts have reduced water use by up to 40%. Andy Marr, Director of DFCM, and Joel Williams from the Utah Division of Water Resources spoke in support of the Bill, as did a member of the public.

Yeas: 9

Nays: 0

N/V: 1

Outcome: 1st substitute SB 252 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 1st substitute SB 193 – State Legal Holidays Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Stratton

Floor Sponsor: Representative Brooks

UASD Position: Track

This Bill addresses state legal holidays and holy days.

Discussion: The sponsor, accompanied by Pastor Beickel, explained the historical and cultural significance of public holidays and the role they play in recognizing important religious and civic

observances. The sponsor stated that the Bill designates Good Friday as a state holiday and authorizes four hours of paid leave for state employees in recognition of the holiday. The Bill also addresses school scheduling by encouraging local education agencies (“LEAs”) to be mindful of the Good Friday holiday when establishing school calendars, but it does not require schools to cancel classes on that day.

Representative Cutler asked whether LEAs that do not align their school calendars with the new state holiday would require teachers to work that day or whether teachers could receive paid leave. The sponsor clarified that schools are not required to cancel classes for Good Friday but are encouraged to take the holiday into consideration when setting their calendars.

Representative Cutler also raised concerns regarding the fiscal note and the potential for lost or deferred output within state agencies.

The Eagle Forum, Pastor Mike Bell of South Mountain Community Church, and two members of the public spoke in support of the Bill. Representative Shelley expressed concern about establishing additional state holidays and the potential impact on small and local businesses but stated support for the concept of the Bill. Representatives Shallenberger, Hansen, and Owens spoke in support of the Bill.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 1

N/V: 2

Outcome: 1st substitute SB 193 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
