

House Education Committee

Prepared by the Utah Association of Special Districts

03/04/2026

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

Sponsor: Senator Musselman

Floor Sponsor: Representative Peterson

UASD Position: Track

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 stated that the Bill establishes a pilot program allowing a state agency that administers grants to award grant funding using an outcomes-based framework. Under the Bill, the Utah Office of the Legislative Auditor General (“OLAG”) is required to establish standards and requirements for evaluating outcomes-based projects. An applicant seeking funding through the program must submit a pre-analysis plan that identifies the project’s expected outcomes and the metrics that will be used to evaluate performance. The Bill requires that project outcomes be evaluated by an independent evaluator and authorizes OLAG to review the evaluation results to determine whether the project achieved the identified outcomes. The Bill also includes a sunset date for the pilot program.

Representative Moss asked about the fiscal note and whether the program has been or could be funded. The sponsor responded that funding already exists within the OLAG budget and that the Bill places those funds within an outcomes-based grant framework. Representative Eliason asked who would serve as independent evaluators. The sponsor explained that the program could create a marketplace for evaluators, with OLAG establishing standards to ensure evaluations are conducted properly. In response to a question about whether participants would be selected randomly, the sponsor stated that those procedures would be determined through rulemaking. Representative Walters asked what metrics would be used to judge grant performance. The sponsor explained that the Bill is grounded in evidence-based policymaking, with OLAG establishing standards for the metrics and requiring independent evaluation to determine whether the identified outcomes were achieved.

Yeas: 9

Nays: 0

N/V: 6

Outcome: 1st substitute SB 324 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.