

20 January 2022

Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee

Bill: SB 73 - Flow Rates or Quantity for Plumbing Fixtures

Sponsor: Senator Jani Iwamoto

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: modifies provisions related to requirements for plumbing fixtures or fixture fittings.

Discussion: Senator Davis presented the bill with sponsor. Senator Grover asked if the new requirements for plumbing fixtures have adequate cleaning capabilities, or if the water pressure will be ineffective. Senator Davis responded that the changes made in this Bill do not affect the existing plumbing fixtures in place under the current code, which may not be providing as much water as they could under the current code. Senator Grover asked what fixtures would be impacted. The presenter responded that the bill affects residential bathroom and showerheads, but does not go into commercial and industrial plumbing fixtures. The sponsor clarified that the new requirements are only for new home builds and remodels. Senator Grover wanted to know if a new home builder would be able to find a faucet that has the water flow preferred by the buyer, or if everyone is obligated to conform to low flow fixtures. The sponsor stated that on new buildings and remodels, the low flow fixtures were be required. The sponsor stated that these low flow requirements will not impact fixtures for public entities. The sponsor explained that the described low flow fixtures in the language of the Bill are the vast majority of fixtures found in stores. Senator Vickers asked if the current Code requires low flow toilets. Presenter Senator Davis briefly explained the Energy Policy Act requires toilets that use 1.6 gallons of water per flush. In 2006 there was a manufacturing change in mainstream toilets that went from 1.6-gallons per flush to a 1.28-gallons per flush. If implemented, the Bill alters the Utah Code from a 1.6-gallon flush to the 1.28-gallon flush. Senator Vickers asked if the Bill requires sensor flow in the home. The Bill does not. Senator Owens asked if implemented, whether this would be used as leverage on all the western states to help conserve. Senator Davis stated that Nevada has already adopted this standard in homes, though he is unsure of commercial implementation. Colorado, California, and other western states have done this and it seems to be working fine. No public comment was made. The sponsor added that Utah is the only Colorado Basin state that has not adopted this requirement in some form.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 1

N/V: 2

Outcome: The Bill passed out of the committee with a favorable recommendation.

Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee

Bill: SB 68 - Trespass Penalty Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Scott D. Sandall

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: makes changes related to civil penalties for trespassing on private property.

Discussion: The sponsor discussed the changes to civil penalties for trespassing made in this Bill. A member of the public spoke in support of the Bill.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: The Bill passed out of the committee with a favorable recommendation.

Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee

Bill: SB 69 - Animal Shelter Revisions

Sponsor: Senator David P. Hinkins

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: establishes requirements for animal shelters that euthanize animals.

Discussion: The sponsor discussed the requirements to euthanize an animal under this Bill. Senator Vickers asked what happens if there is a shortage to the chemicals used to perform euthanasia. Senator Hinkins said that it is an unanswered question. Senator Iwamoto stated that most of the shelters in Utah are no-kill shelters and asks how much this Bill would actually impact the shelters. The sponsor stated that there are three counties that regularly euthanize shelter animals. Senator Iwamoto asked if the no-kill shelters are using euthanasia if an animal is dying. The sponsor assumes they do. A member of public, animal welfare attorney, described the inhumane aspect of gas chambers, and the health effects on both humans and the animals. An employee of the Salt Lake County Animal Service, the largest municipal shelter in the state, stated that while the shelter is no-kill, it still offers gas chamber euthanasia when deemed humane and appropriate. The shelter follows the American Veterinary and Medical Association of Shelters' Standards guidelines, which supports only euthanasia by injection. This method is more cost effective, humane, and better for employees. It also avoids compassion fatigue for employees. The Utah State Director of the Humane Society supports this Bill and stated that the requirements listed in the Bill follow best practices. Senator Vickers does have concerns about wild animals and will amend the Bill to address this issue if desired by the counties.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: The Bill passed out of the committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 97 - Solid and Hazardous Waste Provisions

Sponsor: Senator Ronald M. Winterton

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill: modifies provisions regarding commercial non-hazardous solid waste treatment, storage, or disposal facilities.

Discussion: The sponsor discussed the specific provisions regarding commercial non-hazardous solid waste treatment and storage. Senator Davis asked if the Bill moves the regulation of the by-products to EPA. The sponsor answered no.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: The Bill passed out of the committee with a favorable recommendation.

Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee

Bill: SB 72 - ATV Weight Limit Amendments

Sponsor: Senator David P. Hinkins

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: TBD

This Bill: amends the definition of an all-terrain type II vehicle to change the weight limit to 3,500 pounds.

Discussion: The sponsor spoke to the change of the weight limit to 3,500 pounds for all-terrain type II vehicles. The Director of the Division of Recreation testified that this is in line with the current safety features of all-terrain type II vehicles and the direction the industry is going to make these vehicles more safe.

Yeas: 4

Nays: 0

N/V: 4

Outcome: The Bill passed out of the committee with a favorable recommendation.