

Senate Health and Human Services Committee
January 27th, 2025

Bill: SB 134 – Health-Care Decisions Act Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Michael McKell

Floor Sponsor: Undeclared

UASD Position: TBD

This Bill enacts the Uniform Health-Care Decisions Act.

Discussion: Senator McKell said that this Bill is coming from the Uniform Law Commission. SB 134 is an update to the 1993 Uniform Health-Care Decisions Act. The Bill is designed to remove barriers to creating and implementing advanced health directives for medical care. For example, it allows for remote witnesses for the execution of power of attorney for healthcare, modernizes the definition of “capacity”, expands the list of default surrogates to include a wider array of individuals and different family structures, and uses plain language for the advanced healthcare directive form. The sponsor met with representative from the Utah Hospital Association, the Intermountain Health Medical Association, Utah Commission on Aging, and the Disability Law Center to receive input. The Committee adopted amendment 1. The amendment adds what should happen if there is a disagreement among a class of surrogates, such as children disagreeing on the medical approach to take for a parent who is unable to make medical decisions. The amendment also clarifies that the Department of Health and Human Services must create a uniform form to be used if there is a default surrogate. A representative of the Utah Medical Association spoke in support of the Bill and noted that they are concerned with that the definition of “healthcare professional” is too broad. The Utah Hospital Association expressed support for the Bill but asked that the Bill’s implantation date be amended to take affect at the end of the year to allow healthcare facilities and practitioners time to be educated and implement the changes. The sponsor views this as a friendly amendment and agreed to substitute the Bill with that change on the floor of the Senate.

Yeas: 3

Nays: 0

N/V: 4

Outcome: SB 134, as amended, passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 1st substitute HB 14 – Emergency Services Personnel Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Norman Thurston

Floor Sponsor: Senator Lincoln Fillmore

UASD Position: Support

This Bill allows licensed emergency medical service personnel to provide non-911 emergency medical services in certain circumstances.

Discussion: This Bill creates criteria to allow licensed EMTs and paramedics to perform functions, that they are trained and licensed to perform such as administer IVs or medications, in approved setting including hospitals and clinics where there is medical supervision. The 1st substitute was adopted by the Committee. The substitute clarifies language to make it easier for the Department of Public Safety to administer the provisions in the Bill. There were no questions from the Committee members and no testimony from the public.

Yeas: 4

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 14 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.