

**Bill: 1st substitute HB 152 – Health Care Facilities Amendments**

Sponsor: Representative Katy Hall

Floor Sponsor:

**UASD Position: Tracking**

This Bill addresses satellite emergency departments.

Discussion: Representative Hall explained that this Bill has been in development for over a year, with extensive discussions with stakeholders. The Bill addresses the growing number of freestanding emergency service centers along the Wasatch Front. During her visits to these centers, Representative Hall observed significant differences between centers in the equipment and the experience levels of staff. To address these disparities, the Bill requires freestanding emergency departments in first and second class counties to meet minimum standards for equipment and personnel. Representative Hall said that limiting the requirements to first and second class counties was in response to concerns from rural counties, which might not be able to meet the standards being proposed. She also highlighted the Bill's focus on price transparency for patients seeking emergency treatment, as outlined in lines 82–101. Additionally, the Bill addresses limitations in the current Department of Health and Human Services (“DHS”) rules which restrict the number of facilities. Under the proposed changes in lines 102–104, the Bill allows for more facilities to be established. The 1st substitute revises the DHS license renewal requirements to align with the new guidelines put forward in the Bill. These changes were made in collaboration with the Utah Hospital Association, who sought more control over licensing. Representative Hall expressed hope that the adjustments made in the 1<sup>st</sup> substitute would reduce the fiscal note to zero.

Representative Chevrier asked if the state typically funds emergency care facilities. Representative Hall explained that, while the state does not directly fund these facilities, they often rely on Medicare and Medicaid funding. Representative Chevrier inquired if the funding would come from these sources. Representative Hall responded that there would be no state funding required and the fiscal note would remain zero. The Utah Nursing Association (“UNA”), the Utah Hospital Association (“UHA”), and the Utah Medical Association (“UMA”) spoke in support of the Bill and praised Representative Hall’s collaborative efforts. The 1st substitute was adopted by the Committee. Representative Ward praised the sponsor’s hard work on the Bill.

Yeas: 13

Nays: 0

N/V: 1

**Outcome: 1st substitute HB 152 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**