

**Bill: 2<sup>nd</sup> substitute SB 155 – Sex, Kidnap, and Child Abuse Offender Adjustments**

Sponsor: Senator Todd Weiler

Floor Sponsor: TBD

**UASD Position: Oppose**

This Bill amends provisions related to the Sex, Kidnap, and Child Abuse Offender Registry.

Discussion: The sponsor acknowledged that this is a very controversial topic with strong emotions attached to it. The state has a Sex, Kidnap, and Child Abuse Offender Registry (“Registry”) with approximately 11,000 registered individuals. The registrations need to be renewed each year and the individual’s address must be changed when if they move. An offender placed on the Registry for life may, after 20 years, file a petition to be removed. Senator Weiler said that some registered sex offenders pose a danger to children and society, while others do not. He believes that those who no longer pose a danger should be removed from the Registry in a timelier manner.

Senator Weiler presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> substitute, which was adopted by the Committee. The substitute Bill would allow an individual on the Registry for life to petition a judge for early removal after 12 years instead of 20 years. If a petition for removal is denied, current law requires an individual to wait 8 years before they resubmit a petition for removal. This Bill shortens the time to 5 years. Senator Weiler explained that there are guardrails in place. An individual cannot apply for early removal until 12 years from the date on which the individual completed their sentence and parole. The individual may only submit a petition if the offense is the only offense for which the offender was required to register; the offender has not been convicted of another offense, excluding a traffic offense, since the day on which the offender was convicted of the offense for which the offender is required to register, as evidenced by a certificate of eligibility issued by the Bureau of Pardons and Parole; the offender successfully completed all treatment ordered by the court or the Board of Pardons and Parole relating to the offense; and the offender has paid all restitution ordered by the court or the Board of Pardons and Parole relating to the offense. The offender must also pass a risk assessment performed by a psychiatrist or licensed therapist. After all those conditions have been met, a state court judge may review the case and make a determination.

The Utah Defense Lawyers Association spoke in support of the Bill. The Director of the Victim Services Commission spoke in opposition to the Bill. An Assistant Attorney General and the Director of the Utah Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force expressed appreciation to the sponsor for the changes made in the 2<sup>nd</sup> substitute which make the Bill more palatable. The original Bill did not include any timelines. That said, the Attorney General’s Office continues to

be concerned with the legislation. Several citizens spoke in opposition to the Bill and two citizens spoke in support. Senator Brammer expressed strong opposition to the Bill as written.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 3

N/V: 1

**Outcome: 2<sup>nd</sup> substitute SB 155 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**

---

**Bill: SB 144 – Sexual Crimes Amendments**

Sponsor: Senator Karen Kwan

Floor Sponsor: TBD

**UASD Position: Support**

This Bill addresses sexual crimes and the sentencing for sexual crimes.

**Outcome: SB 144 was not heard in the Committee on January 31, 2025.**

---

**Bill: SB 154 – Legislative Audit Amendments**

Sponsor: Senator Brady Brammer

Floor Sponsor: TBD

**UASD Position: Oppose**

This Bill enacts provisions related to certain information and materials provided to the legislative auditor general.

**Outcome: SB 154 was not heard in the Committee on January 31, 2025.**

---