

House Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee
February 5th, 2025

Bill: 1st substitute HB 313 – State Construction and Electrical Standards Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Thomas W. Peterson

Floor Sponsor: Undeclared

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill modifies the State Construction Code.

Discussion: Representative Peterson spoke to the 1st substitute of the Bill, which was adopted by the Committee. The Bill summarizes recommendations from the Electrical Advisory Committee. One key issue identified by the Advisory Committee deals with the requirement for elevators in multilevel housing with three or more floors. This Bill removes that requirement while ensuring accessible housing remains available on the ground floor. He noted that this change could help reduce construction costs. Additionally, the sponsor stated that the Bill limits the number of NM cables penetrating a top plate in residential construction to no more than two without derating. It also clarifies that regular lumber can be used for exterior construction if a weather protection barrier is applied to the top side of the structural lumber.

Representative Peterson highlighted a change to the Code that would remove the requirement for outlets to be installed in countertops. Representative Shallenberger asked how this change affects kitchen island outlets. The sponsor explained that the NEC now prohibits outlets below the countertop, meaning they are no longer required to serve the countertop. However, proper wiring must be in place if an outlet is installed in the future. He clarified that outlets can still be installed on countertops if desired, as permitted by a prior amendment made to the Code. The Utah Home Builders Association spoke in favor of the Bill. No further discussion or public comment followed.

Yeas: 8

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 313 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.