

House Government Operations Committee
February 7th, 2025

Bill: 1st substitute HB 270 – Voter Registration Records Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Trevor Lee

Floor Sponsor: Undeclared

UASD Position: Support

This Bill amends provisions relating to voter registration records.

Discussion: 1st substitute HB 270 was not heard in Committee today.

Yeas:

Nays:

N/V:

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 270 was not heard on February 7, 2025.

Bill: 1st substitute HB 292 – Political Signs Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Jordan D. Teuscher

Floor Sponsor: Undeclared

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill amends provisions related to political signs.

Discussion: Representative Teuscher spoke to the 1st substitute of the Bill, which was adopted by the Committee. He noted that during the last election cycle, there were creative methods of defacing political signage, particularly by altering the messages on signs. As presented by the sponsor, this Bill regulates political signage by reducing the size exemption for disclosure requirements, prohibiting the attachment of signs to utility poles, light poles, electric utility boxes, or road signs, and banning actions that block or alter political messages. He explained that the Bill allows anyone, not just law enforcement, to remove or remedy the issue when such violations occur, as clarified on line 131.

Representative MacPherson asked how enforcement would work. The sponsor responded that criminal penalties would require evidence gathering but emphasized that the primary purpose of the Bill is to prevent these negative actions and offer a remedy when they occur. Representative MacPherson further inquired if placing a sign near another to alter its message, without physically touching it, would be a violation. The sponsor clarified that it would not be a violation under this Bill, though it may be an issue to address in future legislation. Representative Cutler asked whether the Bill addresses improperly placed signs. The sponsor confirmed that it does not, but it does allow citizens to address such situations. Representative Welton asked if a sign using a light pole or utility box for support, without being attached, would be a violation. The sponsor clarified that the sign must be attached or affixed to constitute a violation. The Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) expressed support for the Bill, particularly commending the sponsor’s collaboration with them on refining the language. Ricky Hatch, the

Weber County Clerk, also praised the sponsor's efforts, though he remained neutral on the legislation itself.

Yeas: 11

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 292 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 1st substitute HB 215 – Office of Legislative Auditor General Provisions

Sponsor: Representative Jefferson S. Burton

Floor Sponsor: Senator Stephanie Pitcher

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill amends provisions governing the duties and powers of the legislative auditor general.

Discussion: Representative Burton spoke to the 1st substitute of the Bill, which was adopted in Committee. He explained that the Bill addresses unresolved audit findings. As noted by the sponsor, this Bill clarifies the Legislative Auditor General's constitutional authority, modifies requirements for entities providing information during audits, and updates provisions on criminal interference with audits. Cade Minchey, Utah's Legislative Auditor General, stated that the process of using audit supervisors has been effective and that this "clean-up" Bill would further improve audit compliance.

Representatives Cutler and FieFia asked clarifying questions about who would be held accountable if a staff member were directed by a supervisor not to comply with an audit. The sponsor responded that, to his knowledge, no such situation had occurred but mentioned that some quasi-state agencies have invoked legal arguments to avoid sharing information. He emphasized that these agencies receive state funds and must be held accountable. According to the sponsor and Mr. Minchey, the individual directing the interference would be held responsible. Mr. Minchey clarified that they had not encountered anyone deliberately disregarding their audit responsibilities, but the misdemeanor provision was included as a safeguard. Representative Maloy spoke in favor of the Bill. Several citizens provided comments, supporting the Bill, while requesting that auditors remain mindful of the additional workload and time audits require. No further discussion or public comment ensued.

Yeas: 9

Nays: 0

N/V: 4

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 215 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.