

House Public Utilities and Energy Committee
2/7/2025

Bill: SB 21 – Long-Term Disability Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Wayne A. Harper

Floor Sponsor: Representative Cheryl K. Acton

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill modifies provisions related to public employee long-term disability benefits.

Discussion: Senator Harper said that SB 21 is an interim Bill that has no fiscal impact. It is essentially a technical “cleanup” Bill for the state’s long-term disability program through the Public Employees Health Plan (“PEHP”). It updates the eligibility requirements for long-term disability benefits, modifies the definition of “objective medical impairment”, and clarifies which employees are eligible for a disability benefit for a “total disability” due to a mental objective medical impairment. The Bill clarifies the process for the evaluation of claims made to qualify for total disability using the most up to date and objective tools available to the medical community. It also clarifies benefits for state employees and provides reasonable accommodations to meet their needs. The Public Employees’ Long-Term Disability program is directed to administer the existing basic long-term benefit for volunteer emergency services personnel. There was no public comment.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

N/V: 6

Outcome: SB 21 passed out of the Committee.
