

Senate Health and Human Services Committee
February 7th, 2025

Bill: 1st substitute SB 57 – Newborn Relinquishment Amendments

Sponsor: Senator David Hinkins

Floor Sponsor: Representative Steve Eliason

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill amends provisions related to the safe relinquishment of a newborn child.

Discussion: The Committee adopted the first substitute, which removes all provisions related to the location where a newborn may be relinquished, as well as references to newborn safety devices. This legislation continues to apply solely to hospitals with a 24-hour emergency room. The primary change introduced by the Bill is the modification of the definition of a "newborn child" in the Safe Relinquishment of a Newborn Child section of the Utah Code. Under current law, a newborn is defined as 30 days old or younger; this Bill will extend that definition to include newborns aged 90 days or younger. Patrice Arent, the Chair of the Newborn Safe Haven Advisory Board, expressed support for the Bill. She said that the Safe Haven law has saved numerous lives and provided families the opportunity to raise children in loving homes. A young man, who was relinquished as an infant, and his adoptive mom spoke in strong support of the Bill by sharing their story.

Yeas: 4

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: 1st substitute SB 57 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
