

Bill: SB 20 – Utah Retirement Systems Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Wayne A. Harper

Floor Sponsor: Representative Matthew H. Gwynn

UASD Position: Support

This Bill modifies the contribution provisions of the New Public Employees' Tier II Contributory Retirement Act.

Discussion: Currently, there is a cap of 10% on the amount an employer can contribute toward an employee's portion of their Tier II retirement system contribution under the Utah Retirement System ("URS"). SB 20 seeks to remove this cap, allowing employers to pay any portion of the employee's retirement contribution. This provision would be permissive, not mandatory. The Bill received support from the Utah School Superintendents Association, the Utah School Board Association, the Utah Association of Special Districts, and a member of the public.

Yeas: 4

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: SB 20 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: SB 241 – Limited Purpose Local Government Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Jerry W. Stevenson

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill modifies provisions affecting special districts.

Discussion: SB 241 modifies public infrastructure districts ("PID"). According to Senator Stevenson, PIDs have been created to finance infrastructure projects for the Military Installation Development Authority ("MIDA"), development of the Point of the Mountain, and the Inland Port. The Bill provides that a property owner controlled basic special district may pledge all or a portion of the revenue collected from an impact fee or other fees toward the payment of a general obligation bond. It authorizes a basic special district to create a PID and to fund the acquisition and construction of certain facilities, as well as affordable housing projects. Additionally, the Bill modifies the requirements for determining the consent of surface property owners within a PID by reducing the threshold from 100% to a majority. It also amends provisions related to the appointment or election of board members for a PID and adjusts the provisions governing the annexation or withdrawal of property from a PID. Furthermore, the Bill stipulates that a public entity or private person may not receive funds from any portion of a PID's property tax revenue without a resolution from the district's board authorizing the transfer of funds. Finally, the Bill modifies the process for a PID to issue a bond.

Senator Vickers asked what would occur if property were transferred or subdivided. The sponsor explained that there is an assessment process in place, where charges would follow the property, and the benefits provided to it. He also asked whether PIDs offer more assurance than Planned Unit Developments. The sponsor responded that PIDs do not have land-use authority and a PID can't pledge revenues towards tax-exempt bonds without 100% property owner approval. There were no public comments respecting the Bill.

Yeas: 4

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: SB 241 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.