

House Health and Human Services Committee

February 13th, 2025

Bill: 2nd substitute SB 134 – Health Care Decisions Act Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Michael K. McKell

Floor Sponsor: Representative Jordan D. Teuscher

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill enacts the Uniform Health Care Decisions Act.

Discussion: The Bill enacts the Uniform Health Care Decisions Act and includes provisions related to advance health care directives, including mental health care directives. It creates an optional form for use in advance health care planning and introduces provisions that allow a health care provider to serve as a surrogate for health care decision-making in limited circumstances. Additionally, the Bill addresses liability and immunity related to health care decision-making. It repeals provisions regarding advance health care directives not included in the Uniform Health Care Decisions Act and renumbers sections pertaining to orders for life-sustaining treatment. Senator McKell noted that he serves on the Uniform Law Commission alongside Representative Teuscher. He highlighted a few uniform codes established by the Commission. The sponsor explained that this Bill updates and modernizes the Uniform Health Care Decisions Act. He mentioned working closely with various medical associations and organizations and emphasized a change recommended by the Hospital Association to adjust the implementation date. The Committee adopted the 2nd substitute, which fixed the hyphenated provision for “Health Care”.

Representative Chevrier asked whether this Bill creates a mandatory form for everyone in the state or an optional form that individuals may choose to use. The sponsor clarified that the goal is to provide a consistent form from the state, but individuals may still use their own form if they prefer. Representative Ward spoke in support of the Bill. No further discussion ensued.

Yeas: 12

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: 2nd substitute SB 134 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 1st substitute HB 391 – Emergency Medical Services Revisions

Sponsor: Representative Hoang Nguyen

Floor Sponsor: Senator Dennis R. Owens

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill addresses emergency medical services.

Discussion: The sponsor addressed the 1st substitute, which was adopted by the Committee. Representative Nguyen explained that this Bill stems from the emergency medical transportation system audit. Currently, when a provider is out of compliance, the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”) can only suspend or revoke a license. This Bill allows the Emergency Medical Services Committee to create a fine schedule, enabling the Bureau of EMS to adopt and enforce fines when providers are noncompliant. The goal of the fines is to encourage compliance without resorting to license revocation. The sponsor noted that all collected fines will be deposited into the Emergency Medical Critical Needs Account (“Account”). Representative Nguyen highlighted support for the Bill from all stakeholders involved.

Representative Fitsiemanu asked whether the Account is newly created by this Bill. Darrin Bushman from the Division of EMS and Public Safety confirmed that this Account is indeed being created by the Bill, noting that other Bills also reference its creation. The President of the Utah State Fire Chiefs Association spoke in support of the Bill. No further discussion ensued.

Yeas: 11

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 391 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
