

Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee

2/25/2025

Bill: SB 305 – Water Wise Landscaping Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Keven J. Stratton

Floor Sponsor: TBD

UASD Position: Oppose and Amend

This Bill addresses water wise landscaping requirements for public facilities.

Discussion: Senator Stratton explained that the Bill codifies specific terms and their applications, including “active use”, “canopies”, and “functional turf”. Line 145 illustrates how these terms apply to state facilities. The sponsor proposed an amendment, which was adopted by the Committee, changing “or” to “and” on line 37 of the Bill. A representative from the Division of Water Resources presented alongside the sponsor.

The Utah Farm Bureau expressed support for water efficiency efforts but opposed restrictions on certain types of vegetation. They cautioned the Committee to consider the long-term impacts of decisions affecting water use and landscaping practices. Mark Stratford, representing the Jordan Water Conservancy District and Prep60, raised concerns about potential confusion and conflicts between water conservancy districts and citizens regarding the definition of “functional turf”. He emphasized that the state and water community have invested millions in educating Utahns on efficient landscaping practices. Mr. Stratford urged the Committee to hold the Bill for further refinement but expressed a desire to collaborate with the sponsor to clarify the language.

Tage Flint, representing Utah Waterways, echoed these concerns and expressed interest in continued discussions with the sponsor. Kirk Harris, representing All American Sod, noted that he and some other stakeholders had not been included in discussions about the Bill and voiced concerns about its mandates. Zack Renstrom, representing the Washington County Water Conservancy District, acknowledged the sponsor’s efforts and recognized beneficial aspects of the legislation but reiterated concerns about the definition of “functional turf”.

A member of the public spoke in opposition to the Bill. Senator Sandall expressed significant concerns about the Bill’s potential to disrupt Utah’s ongoing conservation education efforts.

Yeas: 3

Nays: 3

N/V: 1

Outcome: SB 305, as amended, was held in the Committee.

Bill: SB 319 – Utah Lake Authority Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Brady Brammer

Floor Sponsor: TBD

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill amends provisions related to the Utah Lake Authority (“lake authority”).

Discussion: The Bill was not heard.

Yeas:

Nays:

N/V:

Outcome: SB 319 was not presented to the Committee on February 25, 2025.

UNASSD