

House Government Operations Committee

2/28/2025

Bill: HB 550 – Building Permit Fee Prohibition Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Thomas W. Peterson

Floor Sponsor: Undeclared

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill amends provisions related to permitting fees.

Discussion: Representative Peterson stated that the Bill prohibits municipalities and counties from charging inspection fees when an entity conducts its own inspections using an in-house inspector.

Representative Cutler questioned the necessity of the Bill. The sponsor admitted he had not independently verified the reported issues but understood that excessively high inspection fees had been imposed. Representative Cutler also raised concerns about potential conflicts of interest if entities use their own inspectors. The sponsor assured that existing Code has guardrails in place that prevent such conflicts from occurring.

Representative Loubet suggested refining the Bill's language to clearly state that entities may use their own staff for inspections. Representative Burton questioned whether it is appropriate for an employee to inspect the company that employs them. The sponsor responded that entities choosing this approach assume full liability and responsibility for the building's safety. Representative Burton further inquired whether homebuilders could hire their own inspectors, to which the sponsor clarified that the Bill applies only to municipal government buildings.

Justin Lee, representing the Utah League of Cities and Towns, expressed support for the Bill while noting that further discussions are needed to address concerns raised by the Committee. Scott Paxman, representing the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, also voiced support for the Bill.

Yeas: 10

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: HB 550 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
