

House Judiciary Committee
March 3rd, 2025

Bill: 2nd substitute HB 335 – Political Advertising Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Sahara Hayes

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill amends provisions related to political advertising.

Discussion: Representative Hayes presented Amendment 1 to the 2nd substitute of HB 335, which the Committee adopted. The amendment removes “a news story, commentary, or editorial” from the definition of an advertisement. The sponsor explained that the Bill requires social media advertisements to include a "paid for by" disclosure, similar to other forms of political advertising. She highlighted the growing use of influencer marketing in political campaigns, often without proper disclosure. The Lieutenant Governor’s Office requested clarification on enforcement, which is addressed in lines 475 and beyond, outlining penalties for violations.

Representative Acton asked how it would be determined whether influencers were being paid for political advertising. The sponsor clarified that the requirement applies only when an influencer is compensated to promote political content. The Salt Lake County Clerk spoke in support of the Bill.

Yeas: 9

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: 2nd substitute HB 335, as amended, passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: SJR 3 – Joint Resolution Dissolving Salt Lake County Justice Court

Sponsor: Senator Kirk A. Cullimore

Floor Sponsor: Representative Jordan D. Teuscher

UASD Position: Tracking

This resolution approves the dissolution of the Salt Lake County Justice Court.

Discussion: Senator Cullimore stated that Salt Lake County has been considering the dissolution of its Justice Court for several years. He explained that the Senate amended SJR 3 to extend the transition process originally outlined in the Bill by one year. The Resolution formally approves the dissolution of the Salt Lake County Justice Court. He acknowledged concerns from the State Justice Court about the potential impact on district courts but emphasized that Salt Lake County is in a unique situation due to the number of municipalities it has absorbed.

Representative Miller asked whether a legal mechanism exists to determine how Class B misdemeanors and similar offenses would be reassigned. The sponsor stated that he believed such cases would be directed to the appropriate district court.

The Administrative Office of the Courts spoke in opposition, arguing that dissolving the Justice Court would place a significant burden on district courts and recommended that the Legislature consider a more structured approach.

Yeas: 8

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: SJR 3 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.