

House Transportation Committee
March 3rd, 2025

Bill: HB 532 – Housing Authority Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Ryan D. Wilcox

Floor Sponsor: Senator Calvin R. Musselman

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill enacts provisions related to housing authorities.

Discussion: The Bill was not heard.

Yeas:

Nays:

N/V:

Outcome: HB 532 was not heard in the Committee.

Bill: HB 263 – Election Record Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Norman K. Thurston

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill amends provisions related to records created or used during an election.

Discussion: Representative Thurston explained that this Bill originated from the Government Operations Committee but did not pass the Senate last year. After further refinement during the interim, the Bill now clarifies which election records should be public, establishes retention requirements, and defines access protocols.

The sponsor noted that the current system for securing election records is outdated. While clerks now use electronic ballots and digitized documents, the existing process involves scanning and then destroying documents for security purposes, preventing access to past records for research. This Bill addresses that issue by requiring the preservation of electronic copies of these records. Additionally, it specifies that access must be for a government purpose and outlines who is authorized to view them.

Representative Ivory asked how these provisions compare to other states' election record practices. The sponsor explained that states vary in their transparency and electronic accessibility of election documents. Representative Christofferson then asked whether the Bill applies only to ballots. The sponsor clarified that, in addition to ballots, counties with scanning capabilities would also be required to include envelope scans and captured signatures in their electronic records.

Ricky Hatch, Chair of the Clerks Legislative Committee, spoke in opposition, expressing concerns that the Bill could slow the ballot processing and reconciliation of election records. He

also emphasized that election records are not reopened after an election is finalized to preserve the integrity and finality of results. Tracy Shaw, the Tooele County Clerk, echoed these concerns.

Representative Dominguez asked whether funding was available to help clerks manage digital storage and implement the Bill's requirements. The sponsor responded that digital storage is something clerks should already be maintaining and that first-class counties should have the capacity to secure digital records. He did not anticipate that this would create a significant financial burden.

The sponsor concluded that the Bill would not increase reconciliation efforts beyond the current standard, as most of these processes are already in place. Instead, it ensures that records are maintained electronically and remain accessible for extended periods to designated government personnel.

Yeas: 8

Nays: 1

N/V: 3

Outcome: HB 263 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.