

Senate Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee

3/3/2025

Bill: SB 337 – Land Use and Development Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Kirk A. Cullimore

Floor Sponsor: Undeclared

UASD Position: TBD

This Bill creates the Beehive Development Agency and authorizes the chief executive officer of Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity to propose significant community impact project plans and associated project areas to the Beehive Development Agency.

Discussion: Senator Cullimore presented the 1st Substitute, which was adopted by the Committee. He explained that the substitute removes local preemption. The Bill establishes the Beehive Development Agency (“Agency”) as an independent entity, serving as a limited tool for the Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity (“GOEO”) to facilitate community impact projects. It reestablishes the GOEO as the central point of contact for site selectors and businesses, enhancing outbound economic development efforts across the private sector, government, and development agencies. The Agency and the GOEO will work together to attract generational projects and coordinate economic development tools. Additionally, the Bill aligns the work of GOEO, the Department of Workforce Services, and other entities to improve efficiency.

The Bill also replaces the Unified Economic Opportunity Commission with a coordinating council consisting of the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity, and representatives from Military Installation Development Authority (“MIDA”), the Inland Port, Fairpark, the League of Cities and Towns, and the Utah Association of Counties. The agency will function as a political subdivision, similar to MIDA and other development agencies, but with greater restrictions. It will oversee significant community impact projects, with an interim study planned to establish project evaluation metrics, and there will be a limit of developing three significant projects per year. Additionally, the Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity will take on additional responsibilities, the Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity Board will be eliminated, and a new advisory board will be created.

During discussion, Senator Johnson asked how the Bill ensures local control over projects and prevents government overreach. The sponsor responded that the Agency would improve coordination, optimizing time and resources. The Executive Director of the GOEO spoke in support, believing the Bill will benefit Utah, while the Governor’s Senior Housing Policy Coordinator addressed the housing-related provisions. Opposition to the Bill came from the Utah Rivers Council, which raised concerns about its impact on water projects. The Utah League of Cities and Towns and the Utah Association of Counties, having had opposed the original Bill, stated they would consult their boards to determine their final stance. Many members of the public also spoke in opposition.

President Adams motioned to pass the Bill but acknowledged that certain issues still need to be resolved. Senator Millner asked about the Bill's fiscal note, and a representative from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity explained that the funding would cover the cost of the Housing Director and some startup expenses. Senator Kwan requested that the Bill be sent to interim study, while Senator Johnson reiterated concerns about government overreach, expressing hesitation about the Bill.

Yeas: 3
Nays: 2
N/V: 1

Outcome: 1st Substitute HB 337 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 4th Substitute HB 444 – Data Privacy Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Jefferson Moss
Floor Sponsor: Senator Kirk A. Cullimore
UASD Position: Tracking; Amended

This Bill modifies provisions related to governmental data privacy and privacy oversight.

Discussion: Representative Jefferson Moss presented the 4th Substitute, which was adopted by the Committee. The substitute updates the Bill by changing the term “data governance officer” to “chief administrative officer” throughout and incorporating recommendations from the Utah Association of Special Districts and the League of Cities and Towns. It also removes language that overlaps with another Bill being run by Representative Chevrier, which addresses the issue on a broader scale. The sponsor's intent is to eliminate conflicts and redundancies in data storage to ensure consistency in state Code.

The Bill provides tools and guidance to help entities develop their own data privacy programs while strengthening protections and updating privacy standards. Adjustments have been made to move certain requirements to the privacy annotations under the Government Data Privacy Act. Additionally, the Bill shifts the focus of requirements toward the initiation of privacy programs rather than imposing immediate mandates. The Utah League of Cities and Towns supports the Bill in its substituted form.

Yeas: 5
Nays: 0
N/V: 1

Outcome: 4th Substitute HB 444 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
