

## House Political Subdivisions Committee

3/3/2025

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### **Bill: 2<sup>nd</sup> Substitute SB 215 – Emergency Medical Services Modifications**

Sponsor: Senator Derrin R. Owens

Floor Sponsor: Representative Jefferson Moss

#### **UASD Position: Tracking**

This Bill addresses ground ambulance interfacility transport services.

Discussion: Senator Owens presented the 2nd substitute and Senate Amendment 1, which corrected a spelling error. Both were adopted by the Committee. SB 215 was introduced in response to an audit of Emergency Medical Services, aiming to improve service oversight and competition while maintaining regulatory standards.

The Bill grants municipalities and counties the authority and responsibility to ensure a minimum level of ground ambulance interfacility transport services within their jurisdictions. To achieve this, municipalities and counties must conduct a formal review and evaluation of emergency medical service providers every four years, solicit competitive sealed proposals to assess alternative qualified emergency medical service providers, offer the first right of interfacility transport services to the current 911 ambulance service provider and perform formal reviews of both 911 service providers and interfacility transport service providers.

The Bill also removes the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services Management (“Bureau”) from the municipal and county selection process for emergency medical service providers, except for verifying applicants meet minimum requirements. However, the Bureau retains investigative authority, including the ability to discipline non-911 ambulance service providers. Additionally, the Bill makes it a Class B misdemeanor to willfully disobey a valid subpoena or cease-and-desist letter issued by the Bureau.

The audit recommended lowering barriers to entry for emergency medical service providers while maintaining appropriate regulation. The sponsor emphasized that this Bill does not deregulate the industry but instead empowers local governments to determine how 911 and interfacility transportation services operate. Local governments can collaborate on mutual aid agreements without state-imposed restrictions, and bureaucratic processes for changing license requirements are removed while still allowing the Bureau of EMS to conduct investigations.

During the discussion, Representative Lee asked how the Bill addresses the audit’s recommendations regarding pricing and service improvements. The sponsor explained that allowing multiple providers within counties would encourage competition and drive down costs. Representative Dunnigan inquired about restrictions on out-of-state companies entering the market. The sponsor responded that the Bill requires agencies to review their costs every four years while also creating opportunities for new providers to enter the market.

Gold Cross Ambulance, the Utah State Fire Chiefs Association, the Director of the Bureau of EMS, and the Rural EMS Directors Association spoke in support of the Bill.

Yeas: 7  
Nays: 0  
N/V: 3

**Outcome: 2<sup>nd</sup> Substitute SB 215 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**

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**Bill: SB 314 – Special District Modifications**

Sponsor: Senator Kirk A. Cullimore

Floor Sponsor: Representative Thomas W. Peterson

**UASD Position: Support**

This Bill amends provisions related to special districts.

Discussion: Senator Cullimore stated that this is a clean-up Bill for the Utah Association of Special Districts (“UASD”). Heather Anderson, representing UASD, presented with the sponsor. SB 314 does 5 things. It establishes a uniform candidate filing period for special district elections. If a special district has adopted a 4-day standard work week and the board member candidate filing deadline falls on a day that is not a regular working day, the deadline for filing will be extended to the close of normal office hours on the next business day. It will allow an area that is annexed into a municipality, not located in a county of the first class, that is served entirely by a fire district to more easily be annexed into the fire district and be served on par with the rest of the municipality. It provides for a second elected official to be appointed by a legislative body of each included municipality and the county to serve as an alternate municipal services district board member in the absence of the regular board member. It provides a 90-day deadline for the county or municipal legislative body to fill the vacancy. Failing that, the authority to fill the vacancy will revert back to the elected special district board, provided that there is a quorum. The Utah Association of Special Districts spoke in support of the Bill. There was no further public comment.

Yeas: 7  
Nays: 0  
N/V: 3

**Outcome: SB 314 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**

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