

## Senate Judiciary, Law Enforcement, and Criminal Justice Committee

3/4/2025

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### **Bill: 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute HB 140 – Assault Amendments**

Sponsor: Representative Jon Hawkins

Floor Sponsor: Senator Micheal K. McKell

**UASD Position: Tracking**

This Bill concerns an assault or threat of violence committed against a referee.

Discussion: Representative Hawkins presented HB 140, explaining that it classifies physical and verbal attacks on referees as aggravating factors, allowing judges to impose additional penalties during sentencing.

Senator Musselman raised concerns about “verbal hyperbole” and cited an example, while the Bill's sponsor shared a personal experience, emphasizing that the legislation does not regulate free speech. The Bill aims to prevent escalating threats and violence against high school referees. Senator Musselman expressed interest in working with the sponsor to clarify potential ambiguities, as he felt the Bill lacked specificity. Senator Weiler clarified that the Bill applies exclusively to threats against referees.

Dan Strong, from the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, testified that the Bill does not create new offenses. It grants judge’s discretion in sentencing. The Utah High School Activities Association supports the legislation.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 3

N/V: 1

**Outcome: 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute HB 140 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**

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### **Bill: 2<sup>nd</sup> Substitute HB 273 – Law Enforcement Investigation Amendments**

Sponsor: Representative Ryan D. Wilcox

Floor Sponsor: Senator Todd Weiler

**UASD Position: Tracking**

This Bill concerns procedures and requirements related to law enforcement investigations.

Discussion: Representative Wilcox presented the 2nd substitute HB 273, which imposes restrictions and establishes procedures for law enforcement access to reverse-keyword search data. The Bill requires specific notification for certain warrant applications and includes a sunset provision that sets an expiration date for this requirement. Law enforcement agencies are prohibited from obtaining reverse-keyword information for electronic devices unless they first secure a search warrant. Additionally, the request must be related to the investigation or

prosecution of a felony offense or demonstrate an imminent, ongoing threat to public safety. The sponsor provided examples of past uses of reverse-keyword searches and explained how they would be applied under this Bill. The Law Enforcement Legislative Committee expressed support for the Bill. The sponsor also clarified that if enacted, the legislation would remain in effect until further guidance is provided by the Supreme Court.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 4

**Outcome: 2<sup>nd</sup> Substitute HB 273 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**

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