

Senate Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee

3/4/2025

Bill: 4th Substitute HB 198 – Highway Expansion Impacts on Signage Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Val L. Peterson

Floor Sponsor: Senator John D. Johnson

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill amends provisions related to the relocation of a billboard due to road construction or other highway changes.

Discussion: Representative Peterson explained that he collaborated with the League of Cities and Towns and the Utah Department of Transportation to refine the legislation until both entities remained neutral on the Bill. The Bill amends provisions related to the relocation of billboards that have been obstructed or impacted by highway widening, construction, reconstruction, or other improvements. It allows billboards to either be relocated or bought out for road construction projects. If a billboard is moved, it cannot be relocated more than a mile from its original location and must remain within the same municipality unless an outside municipality agrees to accept it.

Senator Kwan asked whether a billboard company and a municipality could already agree to relocate a billboard without this Bill. The sponsor clarified that the Bill extends the permitted relocation radius to a full mile, and if the company and municipality cannot reach an agreement, the billboard will not be moved.

Members of the public raised concerns about potential conflicts with legislation passed in 1971, particularly a law that prohibits billboards within a certain distance of highway ramps. A representative from Reagan Outdoor Advertising spoke in support of the Bill, emphasizing that it does not authorize the creation of additional billboards but rather ensures that relocated billboards comply with existing statutes. He explained that this compliance requirement is the reason for increasing the relocation distance.

Senator Johnson noted that purchasing billboards is extremely expensive and emphasized that it is in the best interest of both the state and municipalities to relocate billboards rather than buy them out.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 1

Outcome: 4th Substitute HB 198 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
