

Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee  
February 28th, 2025

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**Bill: HB 415 – Water Commissioner Modifications**

Sponsor: Representative Thomas W. Peterson

Floor Sponsor:

**UASD Position: Support**

This Bill clarifies employment provisions for water commissioners.

Discussion: Representative Peterson explained that this Bill makes the 34 water commissioners in the state eligible for health and retirement benefits. He emphasized that the Bill is permissive, not mandatory, and is intended to give local entities the flexibility to negotiate compensation preferences with water commissioners.

Senator Owens asked whether these benefits would include the same cost of living adjustments as state contracts. The sponsor clarified that this works differently, as wages for water commissioners are determined by the distribution systems. Wayne Garrett, from the Utah Farm Bureau, spoke in support of the Bill. No further discussion followed.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

**Outcome: HB 415 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**

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**Bill: 1st Substitute HJR 9 – Joint Resolution Regarding Utah's Share of Colorado River Water**

Sponsor: Representative Casey Snider

Floor Sponsor: Senator Scott D. Sandall

**UASD Position: Support**

This Resolution addresses usage of allotted shares of Colorado River water.

Discussion: The floor sponsor presented the Bill on behalf of the sponsor, explaining that the Resolution outlines the historical interstate compact concerning the Colorado River. He emphasized the significance of Utah's allocated water share and stated that any basin state should have the right to use its Colorado River allocation anywhere within its geographic boundaries.

Senator Hinkins asked whether this allocation would assist San Juan County in utilizing Utah's share of the Colorado River water. The sponsor replied that while the Resolution supports this idea, it does not directly authorize it. No further discussion followed.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

**Outcome: 1st substitute HJR 9 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**

UAFSD