

Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, and Energy Committee
February 28th, 2025

Bill: SB 340 – Protected Person Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Don Ipson

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: TBD

This Bill enacts provisions relating to the construction of a security improvement to real property belonging to an individual who is certified to be at risk of harm.

Discussion: The sponsor stated that this Bill establishes a process for individuals at risk of harm to apply for certification from the commissioner of public safety to construct security improvements on their property. It requires land use authorities to approve such applications if they comply with state construction and fire codes. Certified security improvements would be exempt from county and municipal land use regulations. The Bill also outlines remedies for individuals if a municipality or county unlawfully conditions, delays, or denies a building permit for a certified security improvement. Additionally, it ensures the confidentiality of records related to security improvement certification and construction. No discussion ensued.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: SB 340 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 6th substitute HB 162 – Transportation Funding Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Rex Shipp

Floor Sponsor: Senator Evan Vickers

UASD Position: Support

This Bill limits certain uses of local option sales and use taxes for transportation.

Discussion: Representative Shipp explained that during the 2024 Legislative Session, the Legislature passed a Bill allowing a 30-basis point increase in the ¼% sales tax for counties of the third through sixth class to fund public safety. Last year, the sponsor introduced a companion Bill to place guardrails on how these funds could be used, but it did not pass. The sponsor noted that public safety is a broad category and expressed concern that some counties are using sales tax funds for personnel salaries rather than infrastructure, which he believes was the intended use. He argued that sales tax revenue should be reserved for capital projects and infrastructure, while county salaries should be funded through property tax revenue, which provides a more stable revenue source.

This Bill establishes guardrails, prohibiting the use of these funds for anything other than public safety infrastructure, including jails and fire stations. The funds cannot be used for the operation or maintenance of buildings, vehicles, or equipment. However, an exception is made for counties that have already budgeted or implemented the use of these sales tax funds for personnel salaries

as of January 1, 2025; those counties will have three years to phase out the use of that revenue for anything other than capital infrastructure.

Senator Winterton asked whether the timeline should be extended, as three years might not be long enough. The sponsor explained that the 5th substitute included an indefinite timeline, but due to concerns from the Committee, he compromised in the 6th substitute, which established a three-year timeline. The Cache County Council spoke in opposition to the Bill. The Utah Sheriffs Association and several concerned county council members also voiced opposition.

Yeas: 1

Nays: 6

N/V: 1

Outcome: 6th substitute HB 162 failed to pass out of the Committee.

Bill: 1st substitute HB 492 – Drinking Water Utilities Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Collin Jack

Floor Sponsor: Senator Heidi Balderree

UASD Position: Oppose (Consider Track with 1st substitute); UASD amended

This Bill addresses security at drinking water facilities.

Discussion: This Bill requires community water systems to develop a security plan and report any security breach to the Utah Cyber Center within two hours of discovery. It also mandates the Division of Drinking Water to provide an annual security report to two legislative committees and classifies security plans as protected records to ensure confidentiality.

The Committee adopted the 1st substitute, incorporating amendments requested by UASD. These changes clarify that a security breach does not include unauthorized physical entry, it extends the deadline for water suppliers to complete a security plan to December 31, 2025, and specifies that security plans, incident reports, and related information must be available for review rather than being submitted as official records. Additionally, for resources unrelated to water treatment and delivery, suppliers may create a separate security plan or integrate it into a broader security strategy.

The Director of the Division of Drinking Water emphasized the high risk to Utah's critical water infrastructure, highlighting the Bill's role in protecting residents and suppliers from cyber threats. The Utah Cyber Center also expressed strong support.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

Outcome: 1st substitute HB 492 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 3rd substitute HB 407 – Mini-Motorcycle Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Ashlee Matthews
Floor Sponsor: Senator Wayne A. Harper
UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill addresses the use of mini-motorcycles.

Discussion: The floor sponsor presented the Bill on behalf of the sponsor. Senator Harper explained that the Bill clarifies language by adding the word "child" to the Code included in the definitions of this Section and updates existing provisions related to mini-motorcycles. It also addresses issues concerning driver licenses and the regulation of mini-motorcycles.

Under the Bill, individuals are prohibited from operating a mini-motorcycle on public property or highways unless the vehicle is properly registered for highway use and the operator holds a valid motorcycle license. Additionally, the operator must comply with all relevant laws and regulations, including those related to registration, driver licenses and endorsements, insurance, and the requirement to stop when directed by law enforcement. Failure to comply may result in a citation and possible seizure of the vehicle. If an individual who has not been issued a driver license is found guilty of violating these provisions, the Driver License Division will deny their application for either a driver license or learner permit for one year after conviction or one year after they reach the minimum age required—whichever is longer. Law enforcement officers may also seize and impound the mini-motorcycle. No discussion followed.

Yeas: 6
Nays: 0
N/V: 2

Outcome: 3rd substitute HB 407 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.