

House Business, Labor, and Commerce Committee

2/28/2025

Bill: HB 558 – Local Government Drug Testing Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Cory A. Maloy

Floor Sponsor: Undeclared

UASD Position: TBD

This Bill amends provisions relating to drug testing by government entities.

Discussion: Representative Maloy explained that the Bill addresses drug testing conducted by local government entities and institutions of higher education. HB 558 expands the definition of “sample” to include oral fluid and allows for various types of samples for drug testing. It also updates the methods and requirements for sample collection.

David Kitchen testified that removing the need for a third party to collect samples will save both time and money. The Bill streamlines the drug testing process for municipalities, making it more cost-effective. The Utah League of Cities and Towns expressed their support for the Bill.

Yeas: 8

Nays: 0

N/V: 8

Outcome: HB 558 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 1st Substitute HB 551 – Elected Official Publicity Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Jason B. Kyle

Floor Sponsor: Undeclared

UASD Position: TBD

This Bill addresses a public official's use of public funds.

Discussion: Representative Kyle presented the first substitute, which was adopted by the Committee. The sponsor believes HB 551 will help build trust between constituents and elected officials, as well as with political subdivisions. The Bill prohibits public officials from using public funds for billboards or mass communications that contain certain content and are posted, displayed, or mailed within 60 days before a caucus, convention, or election in which the public official is a candidate. There are, however, exceptions to this prohibition for certain types of mass communications.

The sponsor explained that the Bill aims to prevent "soft ads" funded by taxpayer funds. A "soft ad" might be a sign or piece of mail that features an elected official's image but promotes something related to their elected official duties that is unrelated to their campaign. The Bill is specifically designed to prevent this practice leading up to a caucus or election.

Representative Dunnigan inquired about the Bill's impact on campaigns. The sponsor clarified that it should not directly affect campaigns, but it ensures public funds cannot be used for these soft ads. A member of the public raised concerns about the Bill, but the sponsor reassured everyone that it would not affect other types of alerts. He further emphasized that the Bill enforces restrictions only within 60 days of an election.

Yeas: 9

Nays: 0

N/V: 7

Outcome: 1st Substitute HB 551 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

Bill: 1st Substitute SB 220 – Construction Modifications

Sponsor: Senator Calvin R. Musselman

Floor Sponsor: Representative Thomas W. Peterson

UASD Position: Support

This Bill addresses construction site storm water runoff controls.

Discussion: The Bill sets standards for how the Division of Water Quality (“DWQ”) regulates stormwater runoff controls, imposes fines for violations, and conducts inspections at construction sites that affect stormwater runoff. It also specifies exceptions for the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) and establishes penalties for non-compliance. These measures aim to ensure proper management of stormwater runoff while holding entities accountable for violations related to environmental protections.

Representative Wilcox inquired about the municipal authority and how the Bill defines an "immediate threat", as well as how that threat would be measured. A representative of the Utah Homebuilders Association clarified that a contaminant could be any substance defined by the Environmental Protection Agency’s (“EPA”) regulations.

Yeas: 12

Nays: 0

N/V: 4

Outcome: 1st Substitute SB 220 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
