

2024 UMAA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

HOUSE BILLS

HB 10 – Public Fund Amendments - Senate 3rd Reading Calendar, Neil Walter - Tracking
<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/hbillint/HB0010.pdf>

This bill: 1) defines terms; 2) requires the state treasurer to annually report the current balance in the Public Treasurers' Investment Fund for each entity that has transferred money to that fund; and 3) makes technical and conforming changes.

Ryan's thoughts: Requires the Public Treasurer to create a report that is presented to the legislature listing all of us who have a PTIF account. We don't have to do anything but the goal of this is more transparency and will show whoever wants to know what we have in our accounts.

HB 11, 1st Substitute – Water Efficient Landscaping Requirements – Senate 2nd Reading Calendar - Doug Owens UASD's position is Support
<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/hbillint/HB0011S01.pdf>

This bill: 1) defines terms; 2) restricts the use of lawn or turf by certain governmental entities; and 3) makes technical changes.

Ryan's thoughts: When you landscape your new government office/garage/random construction project you are limited on the amount of grass you can plant. Editor's note, grow all the Mary Jane you want but don't you dare grow grass!

HB 13 – Infrastructure Financing Districts - House 3rd Reading Calendar - James Dunnigan UASD's Position is Amend
<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/hbillint/HB0013.pdf>

This bill: 1) authorizes the creation of a type of special district for the purpose of financing infrastructure; 2) provides a process for the creation of an infrastructure financing district; 3) provides for the powers and governance of an infrastructure financing district; 4) authorizes an infrastructure financing district to impose an assessment on property within the district and to issue assessment bonds to finance infrastructure within the district; 5) provides for the district to have bonding authority, with limitations; 6) authorizes the district to levy a property tax; 7) requires a district to provide proof to a county or municipality that an assessment bond has been paid in full on owner-occupied residential property before the county or municipality may issue a certificate of occupancy; 8) provides for the annexation of an area to an infrastructure financing district, the withdrawal of an area from a district, and for dissolution of a district; 9) authorizes sponsors of a petition to create an infrastructure financing district to create a governing document with provisions that govern the district, including providing for board membership and the transition from appointed board positions to elected board positions.

Ryan's thoughts: This is a developer bill wanting to push certain infrastructure housing projects into 17B. Which is our section of the code. The entire point of it being in 17B is for finance. Easiest way to explain is by example. Say a developer wants to build 100 homes on a plot of land but cannot fully fund the infrastructure, i.e. Water lines, sewer lines and the like. So, the developer creates a special district with taxing/bonding authority, the district would look just like one of our districts with a board and everything. However, the only reason for the district creation is to apply for bonds (that the developer, *not* the district, is on the hook for) which the developer pays back by selling the lots/homes. Once the bond is paid off the district dissolves. There is a cap on the bond in that the developer can only get a bond worth 1/3rd of the total projects worth. UASD wants it out of 17B.

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HB 35 – Metro Township Modifications – Senate Rules - Jordan Teuscher - Support

<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/hbillint/HB0035.pdf>

This bill: 1) converts metro townships into municipalities; 2) provides for the classification and governance of the converted municipalities; 3) enacts language governing the transition from a metro township to a municipality; and 4) makes conforming changes and repeals obsolete language due to the elimination of metro townships.

Ryan's thoughts: eliminates metro townships and magically makes them official cities. Doesn't affect us at all, because they already have all authority of a municipality anyway.

HB 36 – Open and Public Meetings Act Amendments – House 3rd Reading Calendar - James Dunnigan

UASD's position is ~~Track & Amend~~ **Support**

<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/hbillint/HB0036.pdf>

This bill: 1) modifies definitions applicable to the Open and Public Meetings Act, including: a) deleting the definition of "convening"; and b) modifying the definitions of "meeting," "public body," and "quorum"; 2) modifies a provision relating to the transmission of electronic messages; 3) repeals language relating to posting notice of an electronic meeting; and 4) repeals obsolete language and makes conforming and technical changes.

Ryan's thoughts: ~~Basically, makes it illegal for your board to even talk to each other outside of being officially in a "public meeting."~~ I'm exaggerating, but not by much. **UASD got amendments into the bill that they are comfortable with. The simplest way to describe it is that if members of your board randomly meet somewhere, they can discuss district business so long as the discussion is not a "relevant matter." Which would mean don't discuss any items that the district has yet to take action on. For example, don't discuss whether you plan on voting to approve the district's tax increase.**

HB 58 – International Licensing Amendments - House Business and Labor - Cory Maloy – UASD Tracking

<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/hbillint/HB0058.pdf>

This bill: 1) permits the Department of Agriculture to establish the minimum experience required for licensure under the Utah Pesticide Control Act; 2) broadens the Division of Professional Licensing's discretion to accept Page 4 of 27 UASD Legislative Update substantially similar education or experience in satisfaction of standard licensing requirements; and 3) permits the Division of Professional Licensing to issue a temporary license to an applicant seeking.

Ryan's thoughts: I originally thought this had more to do with us than it does. In fact, it has nothing to do with us. I reached out to the UDAF and they responded and I quote: "This proposed rule affects DOPL, mainly. It requires other licensing bodies to do what we've done all along, give reciprocal licenses if one earned a license in another state. It doesn't affect us one bit. I just wanted some clarifying language in the bill, which is why Pesticides is mentioned, specifically." – Henry Nahalewski
I will continue to track it, but I don't think there's anything to get excited about here.

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HB 184 – Vehicle Owner Registration Requirements – House 3rd Reading – UASD Track
<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/static/HB0184.html>

This bill: 1) encourages an owner or operator to carry the off-highway vehicle registration for the convenience of law enforcement; and 2) provides the option for an individual to display the vehicle registration card through digital means, in Page 12 of 18 UASD Legislative Update addition to the original registration card.

Ryan's thoughts: requires you to still have a registration for your ATV, but you can just have a digital copy of it on your phone rather than the physical copy.

HB 252 – State Employee Leave Amendments - House Rules Committee - Ashlee Matthews - Track
<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/hbillint/HB0252.pdf>

This bill: 1) grants a retiring state employee a retirement benefit for unused sick leave hours accrued on or after January 4, 2014, at the employee's rate of pay at the time of retirement; 2) provides that, under the retirement benefit described above, a state employer shall make a contribution to the employee's 401(k) account or, if applicable, health savings account, up to the maximum contribution limits authorized by federal law; and 3) makes technical and conforming changes.

Ryan's thoughts: Creates another way for a retiring employee to cash out unused sick leave. If the employee opts into this, the employer pays a contribution to the employees 401k or health savings account.

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HB 257 – Sex-based Designations for Privacy, Antibullying, and Women’s Opportunities - Enrolling –
Calendar - Kera Birkeland – UASD Track
<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/hbillint/HB0257.pdf>

This bill: 1) defines terms; 2) defines certain terms for the entire Utah Code; 3) establishes a legal standard for distinctions on the basis of sex in certain publicly owned and publicly funded circumstances; 4) establishes acceptable and prohibited distinctions on the basis of sex; 5) enacts provisions regarding publicly owned or publicly funded sex designated restroom, shower, or locker room facilities where the general public has an expectation of privacy; 6) requires local education agencies to establish a privacy plan with parents and students in certain cases to address gender identity and fear of bullying; 7) establishes components of the crimes of voyeurism and criminal trespass for certain actions within a covered sex-designated facility; 8) requires government entities to: a) provide a certain number of single occupant restroom and locker room facilities in new construction; and b) study the feasibility of certain retrofit or remodel projects; 9) requires the attorney general to investigate violations of and enforce protections for standards regarding distinctions on the basis of sex; 10) establishes elements of the crime of emergency reporting abuse for making repeated false reports alleging a violation of a sex designation in a publicly owned or publicly funded restroom, shower, or locker room facility where the general public has an expectation of privacy; and 11) makes technical and conforming changes.

Ryan’s thoughts: **The bill went through multiple revisions and it probably will do more in the future. There are four things to know concerning the bill which is enrolling: 1. It is not required to retro fit your existing bathroom, it is optional. However, you do need to look at the feasibility of remodeling or retrofitting your restroom. 2. All new construction must include a single-occupant facility. 3. It is required for us to report criminal conduct; I’ll call it creepy bathroom behavior, but these are specifically listed in lines 449-453. 4. We must adopt a privacy compliance policy (UASD will create a template). One easy solution is to close the restroom to the public. Just put a sign out saying, “employees only.” That doesn’t solve the employee privacy issue however. You may need to remodel your restrooms to provide for single occupancy. FYI, this bill will pass has passed.**

HB 354 – Truth in Taxation Revisions - House Revenue and Taxation Committee - Tyler Clancy – UASD
Opposes <https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/hbillint/HB0354.pdf>

This bill: 1) defines terms; 2) requires voter approval for taxing entities to impose property tax increases in specified tax years; and 3) makes technical changes.

Ryan’s thoughts: Does just what it says. If you want to raise taxes, you have to put it on a ballot for a general/special election vote. And you’ll still have to do everything else required under truth in taxation.

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SENATE BILLS

SB 29, 1st Substitute – Truth in Taxation Modifications – Senate Concurrence Calendar - Chris Wilson - UASD Tracking

<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/sbillint/SB0029S01.pdf>

This bill: 1) modifies the requirements for public hearings held in connection with judgment levies and property tax increases; 2) excludes certain revenue sources from the calculation of a taxing entity's budgeted property tax revenue for the prior year; 3) requires a taxing entity proposing a property tax increase to provide notice of the scope and purpose of the tax increase and the taxing entity's public website; 4) requires a public auditor to resolve any conflicts in public hearing dates for affected taxing entities; 5) allows a county auditor to audit a taxing entity's compliance with the notice and public hearings requirements for a property tax increase; 6) prohibits the State Tax Commission from certifying a property tax rate increase if the taxing entity fails to meet notice and public hearing requirements; 7) modifies the required contents of the property tax valuation notice provided by a county auditor; 8) modifies the requirements for a county auditor in connection with consolidated public hearings; 9) allows the State Tax Commission to make certain revenue adjustments based on errors associated with uniform fees; and 10) makes technical and conforming changes.

Ryan's thoughts: More red tape for truth in taxation. This is another transparency bill. It makes you specify what you need the extra money for. They will now require you to place a short explanation on your Public Notice along with everything else on there as to why you need this increase.

SB 45 – License Plate Revisions – Senate 2nd Reading Calendar – Daniel McCay - Track

<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/sbillint/SB0042.pdf>

This bill: amends provisions related to the requirement to issue and display a license plate for the front of a vehicle. Removes the requirement for the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue two license plates in most circumstances; removes the requirement for an owner of a vehicle to display a license plate on the front of a vehicle; prohibits a license plate cover and prohibits a license plate frame that obscures the license plate number or decals; requires \$1 from certain license plate fees to be deposited into the Motor Vehicle Safety Impact Restricted Account; and makes technical changes.

Ryan's thoughts: Gets rid of the need for a front license plate. Now you can put your Christmas wreath on your front bumper all year round!

SB 86 – Local Government Bonds Amendments - Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee - Lincoln Fillmore – UASD Support

<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/sbillint/SB0086.pdf>

This bill prohibits local government entities from issuing a lease revenue bond unless the purpose of the bond is to pay for a correctional facility, the amount of the bond is within a specified limit, or the bond is approved at an election.

Ryan's thoughts: UASD was able to get a major amendment into the bill. If you want to issue a bond, you can. So long as the bond does not exceed \$90,000,000 in a year. If you need more money than that you must have it approved through an election.

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SB 114 – Project Entity Amendments - Senate Rules Committee – Scott Sandall - Track

<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/sbillint/SB0114.pdf>

This bill provides that a project entity may only issue municipal bonds with a maturity date prior to December 31, 2045.

Ryan's thoughts: For some reason the legislature has it out for bonds this year. Obviously this one wants you to pay your bond off ASAP.

SB 124 – Government Records Modifications - Senate Rules Committee - Kathleen Riebe – Support

<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/sbillint/SB0124.pdf>

This bill: 1) modifies a provision relating to fees a governmental entity may charge for providing a record; and 2) provides that a governmental entity is not prevented from utilizing a third party to assist in or perform certain activities related to responding to a record request.

Ryan's thoughts: The bill specifies that you can charge for staff time as well as include a third party to help fulfill the request. And you can charge for the district's cost of the 3rd party.

SB 135 – Advanced Air Mobility and Aeronautics Amendments 2nd Sub – Senate Second Reading –

Wayne Harper – Track with concern and amend

<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/sbillint/SB0135.pdf>

This bill amends provision related to aeronautics and advanced air mobility systems. 1) defines terms; 2) requires roadable aircraft to be registered as both a motor vehicle and as an aircraft; 3) provides for the distribution of registration fees for roadable aircraft and advanced air mobility systems; 4) amends definitions related to airports of regional significance; 5) provides for the leasing of navigable airspace above highway rights-of-way in certain circumstances; 6) extends certain land use protections to public use vertiports 7) clarifies that flight is generally permitted in airspace over state lands and waters; 8) prohibits government entities from purchasing or operating an unmanned aircraft system manufactured or assembled in certain foreign countries for inspection of certain critical infrastructure; 8) prohibits government entities from purchasing or operation an unmanned aircraft system manufactured or assembled in certain foreign countries; and makes technical changes

Ryan's thoughts: We are out of the bill. Senator Harper amended the bill in a really good way that I think other states should take a look at. Here's the new language: "A public entity or contractor working directly for a public entity may not purchase or operate an unmanned aircraft system for the inspection of critical infrastructure if the unmanned aircraft system was manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity." In English, that means that so long as you don't use the drone to inspect the Flaming Gorge Dam or other such infrastructure, you can use it. Thanks to Gary for whining, and thanks to LeGrand, Heather, Police and Fire for a good amendment. For the most part this bill doesn't even concern us until you get to the last page which is why UASD doesn't oppose the bill, they just want to amend it. As in amend the last page of the bill out. The bill mostly deals with flying cars and leasing airspace above highways. The part that does concern us are lines 1332-1340. Simply put, if a public entity has a Chinese or Russian drone, after May 1, 2028 you will no longer be allowed to fly it in Utah. Private people can fly them all they want. But we won't be able to. The good news is that Police and Fire are against this bill and are fighting alongside us to stop it. Harper said he was willing to listen to possible amendments and would be willing to compromise on the bill. Heather and LeGrand are setting up a meeting with him to discuss it and we'll see where it goes in the next few days and weeks