MINUTES

SENATE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE

UTAH STATE LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, February 26, 2025 | 4:00 p.m. | 210 Senate Building

Members Present:
Sen. John D. Johnson, Chair
Sen. Heidi Balderree
Sen. Lincoln Fillmore
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Michael K. McKell
Sen. Kathleen A. Riebe
Sen. Chris H. Wilson

Staff Present:
Micah Ann Wixom, Policy Analyst
Calvin Cruz, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:21 p.m.

MOTION: Sen. Riebe moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 5	Nays - 0	Absent - 2
Sen. H. Balderree		Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. D. Hinkins		Sen. M. McKell
Sen. J. Johnson		
Sen. K. Riebe		
Sen. C. Wilson		

1. S.B. 334 Center for Civic Excellence at Utah State University *(Johnson, J.)*

Sen. Balderree assumed the chair.

Sen. Johnson presented the bill with the assistance of Harrison Kleiner, Associate Vice Provost and Associate Professor, Utah State University.

Center for Civic Education at Utah State University Handout - S.B. 334

Julie Jackson, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Trevor Dyches, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Leah Hansen, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

David J. Rothman, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Te Anu Tonga, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Corinne Johnson, President, Utah Parents United, spoke in favor of the bill.

Maryann Christensen, Executive Director, Utah Legislative Watch, spoke in favor of the bill.

Diane Livingston, Director, Worldwide Organization for Women, spoke in favor of the bill.

Gayle Ruzicka, President, Utah Eagle Forum, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Chair Johnson moved to pass S.B. 334 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 1 - 1.

Yeas - 5	Nays - 1	Absent - 1
Sen. H. Balderree	Sen. K. Riebe	Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. D. Hinkins		
Sen. J. Johnson		
Sen. M. McKell		
Sen. C. Wilson		

2. H.B. 381 Civics Education Amendments *(Welton, D.)*

Rep. Welton presented the bill.

Sen. Johnson resumed the chair.

Gayle Ruzicka, spoke in favor of the bill.

Kim Ball, resident, spoke in opposition of the bill.

Te Anu Tonga, spoke in favor of the bill.

Diane Livingston, spoke in favor of the bill.

Leah Hanson, spoke in favor of the bill.

Julie Jackson, Utah School Boards Association, spoke in opposition of the bill.

Delane England, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Maryann Christensen, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to pass H.B. 381 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 1 - 2.

Yeas - 4	Nays - 1	Absent - 2
Sen. H. Balderree	Sen. K. Riebe	Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. D. Hinkins		Sen. C. Wilson
Sen. J. Johnson		
Sen. M. McKell		

3. 2nd Sub. H.B. 455 Utah Fits All Scholarship Program Amendments *(Pierucci, C.)*

Rep. Pierucci presented the bill.

Utah Fits All Scholarship Program Amendments Handout - H.B. 455 S2

MOTION: Sen. Riebe moved to amend 2nd Substitute H.B. 455 with Amendment #2. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Amendment 2

1 . Line 426 through 430:

(i)for a private school student, $8,000;
(ii)for a home-based scholarship student ages {~~5-12~~}5-11 as of September 1 of the scholarship year, $4,000; and
(iii)for a home-based scholarship student ages {~~13-18~~}12-18 as of September 1 of the scholarship year, $6,000.

2 . Line 470 through 471:

condition of scholarship award for the following school year.
(iv)The program manager may not disclose the content of a given scholarship student's portfolio except to the scholarship student's parent, unless the parent provides written consent for the portfolio to be used as a sample or example, in which case all personally identifiable information must be removed prior to such use.
[(d)(i)~~To maintain eligibility, a scholarship student or the scholarship student's~~

Yeas - 4	Nays - 0	Absent - 3
Sen. H. Balderree		Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. J. Johnson		Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. K. Riebe		Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson		

Alesha Ramos, resident, spoke to the bill.

Lauren Barbra, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Madeline Ogborn, resident, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Diane Ogborn, resident, spoke in opposition of the bill.

Jamie Hamilton, director, Utah Stem and Arts Academy, spoke in the opposition of the bill.

Corinne Johnson, spoke in opposition of the bill.

Naomi Burton, spoke in opposition of the bill.

Bethanie, resident, spoke in opposition of the bill.

Brittany Sproul, chair, Utah Home-education Organizations for Parental Empowerment Coalition, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Richelle Lee, resident, spoke in opposition of the bill.

Rachel Morris, resident, spoke in opposition of the bill.

Joseph Meservy, resident, spoke to the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Fillmore moved to pass 2nd Substitute H.B. 455 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6	Nays - 0	Absent - 1
Sen. H. Balderree		Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. L. Fillmore		
Sen. J. Johnson		
Sen. M. McKell		
Sen. K. Riebe		
Sen. C. Wilson		

4. 3rd Sub. H.B. 281 Health Curriculum and Procedures Amendments *(Gricius, S.)*

MOTION: Sen. Fillmore moved to pass 3rd Substitute H.B. 281 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 1 - 2.

Yeas - 4	Nays - 1	Absent - 2
Sen. H. Balderree	Sen. K. Riebe	Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. L. Fillmore		Sen. M. McKell
Sen. J. Johnson		
Sen. C. Wilson		

5. S.B. 321 Public Education Funding Amendments *(Fillmore, L.)*

Sen. Fillmore presented the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Fillmore moved to pass S.B. 321 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 5	Nays - 0	Absent - 2
Sen. H. Balderree		Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. L. Fillmore		Sen. M. McKell
Sen. J. Johnson		
Sen. K. Riebe		
Sen. C. Wilson		

MOTION: Sen. Fillmore moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 5	Nays - 0	Absent - 2
Sen. H. Balderree		Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. L. Fillmore		Sen. M. McKell
Sen. J. Johnson		
Sen. K. Riebe		
Sen. C. Wilson		

Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.