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The Salt Lake Tribune

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Seismic safety

Wary Senate votes down masonry bill

The Salt Lake Tribune

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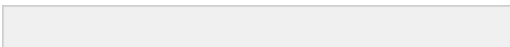
A broad joint resolution to establish a registry of the state's unreinforced masonry buildings met with a 16-11 Senate defeat Monday.

The harmless-sounding resolution - to establish a statewide inventory of potentially shaky structures at the request of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission - aroused surprising opposition in the Senate after gaining full support in the House.

"This resolution seems innocuous, a feel-good piece of legislation," said Sen. Howard Stephenson, R-Draper. "But my fear is it will lead to an expansion of the bureaucracy to inventory every residence in the state of Utah. If this were limited to public buildings, I would probably support it." Senate President John Valentine agreed.

"When I think that government will try to inventory public and private property, that bothers me," he said. - *Cathy McKittrick*

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