

UTAH MARRIAGE COMMISSION

2013 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: LaVar Christensen

Senate Sponsor: John L. Valentine

6	Cosponsors:	Gregory H. Hughes	Michael E. Noel
7	Jacob L. Anderegg	Eric K. Hutchings	Curtis Oda
8	Stewart Barlow	Dana L. Layton	Dixon M. Pitcher
9	Kay J. Christofferson	John G. Mathis	Douglas V. Sagers
10	Keith Grover	Ronda Rudd Menlove	V. Lowry Snow
11	Stephen G. Handy	Jim Nielson	

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies the Utah Human Services Code to create the Utah Marriage Commission.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ creates the Utah Marriage Commission within the Department of Human Services;
- and
- ▶ establishes the duties of the commission.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

62A-1-120, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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30 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

31 Section 1. Section **62A-1-120** is enacted to read:

32 **62A-1-120. Utah Marriage Commission.**

33 (1) As used in this section, "commission" means the Utah Marriage Commission  
34 created by this section.

35 (2) There is created within the department the "Utah Marriage Commission."

36 (3) The commission shall consist of 17 members appointed as follows:

37 (a) two members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate;

38 (b) two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the  
39 House of Representatives;

40 (c) six current or former representatives from marriage and family studies departments,  
41 social or behavioral sciences departments, health sciences departments, colleges of law, or  
42 other related and supporting departments at institutions of higher education in this state, as  
43 shall be appointed by the governor;

44 (d) five representatives selected and appointed by the governor from among the  
45 following groups:

46 (i) social workers who are or have been licensed under Title 58, Chapter 60, Part 2,  
47 Social Worker Licensing Act;

48 (ii) psychologists who are or have been licensed under Title 58, Chapter 61,  
49 Psychologist Licensing Act;

50 (iii) physicians who are or have been board certified in psychiatry and are or have been  
51 licensed under Title 58, Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act;

52 (iv) marriage and family therapists who are or have been licensed under Title 58,  
53 Chapter 60, Part 3, Marriage and Family Therapist Licensing Act;

54 (v) representatives of faith communities;

55 (vi) public health professionals;

56 (vii) representatives of domestic violence prevention organizations; or

57 (viii) legal professionals; and

58 (e) two representatives of the general public appointed by the members of the  
59 commission appointed under Subsections (3)(a) through (d).

60 (4) (a) A member appointed under Subsections (3)(c) through (e) shall serve for a term  
61 of four years. A member may be appointed for subsequent terms.

62 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (4)(a), the governor shall, at the time of appointment  
63 or reappointment, adjust the length of terms to ensure that the terms of commission members  
64 are staggered so that approximately half of the commission is appointed every two years.

65 (c) A commission member shall serve until a replacement is appointed and qualified.

66 (d) When a vacancy occurs in the membership for any reason, the replacement shall be  
67 appointed for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

68 (5) (a) The commission shall annually elect a chair from its membership.

69 (b) The commission shall hold meetings as needed to carry out its duties. A meeting  
70 may be held on the call of the chair or a majority of the commission members.

71 (c) Nine commission members constitute a quorum and, if a quorum exists, the action  
72 of a majority of commission members present constitutes the action of the commission.

73 (6) A commission member may not receive compensation or benefits for the  
74 commission member's service, but may receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance  
75 with:

76 (a) Section 63A-3-106;

77 (b) Section 63A-3-107; and

78 (c) rules made by the Division of Finance pursuant to Sections 63A-3-106 and  
79 63A-3-107.

80 (7) The department shall staff the commission.

81 (8) The commission shall:

82 (a) promote coalitions and collaborative efforts to uphold and encourage a strong and  
83 healthy culture of strong and lasting marriages and stable families;

84 (b) contribute to greater awareness of the importance of marriage and leading to

85 reduced divorce and unwed parenthood in the state;

86 (c) promote public policies that support marriage;

87 (d) promote programs and activities that educate individuals and couples on how to  
88 achieve strong, successful, and lasting marriages, including promoting and assisting in the  
89 offering of:

90 (i) events;

91 (ii) classes and services, including those designed to promote strong, healthy, and  
92 lasting marriages and prevent domestic violence;

93 (iii) marriage and relationship education conferences for the public and professionals;

94 and

95 (iv) enrichment seminars;

96 (e) actively promote measures designed to maintain and strengthen marriage, family,  
97 and the relationships between husband and wife and parents and children; and

98 (f) support volunteerism and private financial contributions and grants in partnership  
99 with the commission and in support of the commission's purposes and activities for the benefit  
100 of the state as provided in this section.

101 (9) Funding for the commission shall be as approved by the Legislature through annual  
102 appropriations and the added funding sought by the commission from private contributions and  
103 grants that support the duties of the commission described in Subsection (8).