

EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATION AMENDMENTS

2019 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates the Governor's Early Childhood Commission.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ creates the Governor's Early Childhood Commission (commission) in the governor's office; and
- ▶ describes the membership and duties of the commission.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

- 63M-13-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 63M-13-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 63M-13-201**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 63M-13-202**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 63M-13-203**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 63M-13-204**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **63M-13-101** is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 13. GOVERNOR’S EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION

Part 1. General Provisions

63M-13-101. Title.

This chapter is known as the "Governor's Early Childhood Commission."

Section 2. Section **63M-13-102** is enacted to read:

33 **63M-13-102. Definitions.**

34 As used in this chapter:

35 (1) "Commission" means the Governor's Early Childhood Commission created in
36 Section 63M-12-103.

37 (2) "Early childhood" refers to a child in the state who is six years of age or younger.

38 (3) "Executive director" means the executive director of the commission.

39 Section 3. Section **63M-13-201** is enacted to read:

40 **Part 2. Governor's Early Childhood Commission**

41 **63M-13-201. Creation of the Governor's Early Childhood Commission.**

42 (1) There is created within the governor's office the Governor's Early Childhood
43 Commission consisting of the following 17 members:

44 (a) the lieutenant governor, who shall serve as chair of the commission;

45 (b) the executive director of the Department of Workforce Services or the deputy
46 director if designated by the executive director;

47 (c) the executive director of the Department of Health or the deputy director if
48 designated by the executive director;

49 (d) the executive director of the Department of Human Services or the deputy director
50 if designated by the executive director;

51 (e) the state superintendent of public instruction or a deputy superintendent if
52 designated by the superintendent;

53 (f) the commissioner of higher education or an associate commissioner if designated by
54 the commissioner;

55 (g) the supervisor of the Utah Head Start State Collaboration Office;

56 (h) the executive director of the Utah School Superintendents Association;

57 (i) the president of the Utah Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics;

58 (j) the governor's education advisor; and

59 (k) the following seven members appointed by the governor:

60 (i) a practitioner with expertise in early childhood behavioral health;

61 (ii) a community leader representing young children from racial or ethnic minorities;

62 (iii) a representative of Early Childhood Utah;

63 (iv) a licensed child care provider;

64 (v) an academic expert in the field of early childhood development; and
65 (vi) two members of the public who at the time of appointment are each the parent of a
66 child in early childhood.

67 (2) The chair of the commission, with the approval of the commission, shall appoint a
68 vice chair of the commission.

69 (3) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), the governor shall appoint each
70 member of the commission appointed under Subsection (1)(k) to a four-year term unless a
71 member is appointed to complete an unexpired term.

72 (b) The governor shall, at the time of appointment or reappointment, adjust the length
73 of the initial terms of appointed commission members to ensure that the terms are staggered so
74 that approximately half are appointed every two years.

75 (4) The commission chair may remove a commission member appointed under
76 Subsection (1)(k) and recommend that the governor appoint a replacement:

77 (a) if the member is unable or unwilling to carry out the member's assigned
78 responsibilities; or

79 (b) for good cause.

80 (5) The commission chair:

81 (a) is responsible for the call and conduct of meetings;

82 (b) shall call and hold meetings of the commission at least quarterly;

83 (c) shall call additional meetings upon request by a majority of the commission's
84 members; and

85 (d) may delegate duties to the vice chair.

86 (6) A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum of the
87 commission at any meeting and the action of the majority of members present is the action of
88 the commission.

89 (7) A member of the commission may not receive compensation or benefits for the
90 member's service, but may receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with:

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

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

93 (c) rules made by the Division of Finance in accordance with Sections 63A-3-106 and
94 63A-3-107.

95 (8) The office of the lieutenant governor shall provide staff support to the commission.
96 Section 4. Section **63M-13-202** is enacted to read:

97 **63M-13-202. Executive director.**

98 The governor shall appoint a governor's advisor for early childhood who shall also
99 serve as the executive director of the commission.

100 Section 5. Section **63M-13-203** is enacted to read:

101 **63M-13-203. Duties of the executive director and the commission.**

102 (1) The responsibilities of the executive director and the commission include:

103 (a) supporting Utah parents and families, who have family members that are in early
104 childhood, by providing comprehensive and accurate information regarding the availability of
105 services that are available to children in early childhood from state agencies and other private
106 and public entities;

107 (b) facilitating improved coordination between state agencies and community partners
108 that provide services to children in early childhood;

109 (c) sharing and analyzing information regarding early childhood issues in the state;

110 (d) developing and coordinating a comprehensive delivery system of services for
111 children in early childhood that addresses the following four areas:

112 (i) family support and safety;

113 (ii) health and development;

114 (iii) early learning; and

115 (iv) economic development; and

116 (e) identifying opportunities for and barriers to the alignment of standards, rules,
117 policies, and procedures across programs and agencies that support children in early childhood.

118 (2) To fulfill the responsibilities described in Subsection (1), the executive director and
119 the commission shall:

120 (a) directly engage with parents, families, community members, and public and private
121 service providers to identify and address:

122 (i) the quality, effectiveness, and availability of existing services for children in early
123 childhood and the coordination of those services;

124 (ii) gaps and barriers to entry in the provision of services for children in early
125 childhood; and

- 126 (iii) community-based solutions in improving the quality, effectiveness, and
127 availability of services for children in early childhood;
- 128 (b) seek regular and ongoing feedback from a wide range of entities and individuals
129 that use or provide services for children in early childhood, including entities and individuals
130 that use, represent, or provide services for any of the following:
- 131 (i) children in early childhood who live in urban, suburban, or rural areas of the state;
132 (ii) children in early childhood with varying socio-economic backgrounds;
133 (iii) children in early childhood with varying ethnic or racial heritage; and
134 (iv) children in early childhood from various geographic areas of the state;
- 135 (c) study, evaluate, and report on the status and effectiveness of policies, procedures,
136 and programs that provide services to children in early childhood;
- 137 (d) study and evaluate policies, procedures, and programs implemented by other states
138 and nongovernmental entities that address the needs of children in early childhood;
- 139 (e) identify policies, procedures, and programs that are impeding efforts to help
140 children in early childhood in the state and recommend and implement changes to those
141 policies and procedures;
- 142 (f) recommend policy, procedure, and program changes to address the needs of
143 children in early childhood;
- 144 (g) develop methods for using interagency information to inform comprehensive policy
145 and budget decisions relating to early childhood services;
- 146 (h) develop, recommend, and coordinate a comprehensive delivery system of services
147 for children in early childhood; and
- 148 (i) develop strategies and monitor efforts concerning:
- 149 (i) increasing school readiness;
150 (ii) improving access to child care and early education programs; and
151 (iii) improving family and community engagement in early childhood education and
152 development.
- 153 (3) In fulfilling the duties of the executive director and the commission, the executive
154 director and commission may collaborate with:
- 155 (a) the State Workforce Development Board;
156 (b) the Utah Data Research Advisory Board;

- 157 (c) the Utah Intergenerational Welfare Reform Commission;
158 (d) the Child Care Center Licensing Committee;
159 (e) the Residential Child Care Licensing Advisory Committee;
160 (f) the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice;
161 (g) the Utah Education Network and the Utah Education and Telehealth Network;
162 (h) other boards, commissions, and councils that exist within the state's executive
163 branch that address services for children in early childhood; and
164 (i) other public and private entities and individuals that provide services for children in
165 early childhood.

166 (4) In fulfilling the commission's duties, the commission may:

167 (a) request and receive, from any state or local governmental agency or institution,
168 information relating to early childhood, including reports, audits, projections, and statistics;
169 and

170 (b) appoint special advisory groups to advise and assist the commission.

171 (5) Members of a special advisory group described in Subsection (4)(b):

172 (a) shall be appointed by the commission;

173 (b) may include:

174 (i) members of the commission; and

175 (ii) individuals from the private or public sector; and

176 (c) may not receive reimbursement or pay for work done in relation to the special
177 advisory group.

178 (6) A special advisory group created in accordance with Subsection (4)(b) shall report
179 to the commission on the progress of the special advisory group.

180 Section 6. Section **63M-13-204** is enacted to read:

181 **63M-13-204. Annual report.**

182 (1) On or before October 1 of each year, the executive director and the commission
183 shall provide a report to the governor and the Economic Development and Workforce Services
184 Interim Committee.

185 (2) The annual report shall:

186 (a) describe how the executive director and the commission fulfilled their statutory
187 duties during the year;

188 (b) describe the executive director's and commission's progress in developing and
189 coordinating a comprehensive delivery system of services for children in early childhood; and
190 (c) include recommendations on how the state should act to address issues related to
191 providing services for children in early childhood.