

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

State Campgrounds Amendments
2025 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Steve Eliason
Senate Sponsor: Scott D. Sandall

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses the designation of state campgrounds.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- establishes the procedure for designating a state campground;
- addresses management of state campgrounds; and
- authorizes rulemaking by the Division of State Parks to:
 - establish the process for completing and submitting an application; and
 - administer management of a state campground.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

- 79-4-1301**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 79-4-1302**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 79-4-1303**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 79-4-1304**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **79-4-1301** is enacted to read:

Part 13. State Campgrounds

28 **79-4-1301 . Definitions.**29 As used in this part:30 (1) "Application" means a written application that a person submits to the division to
31 nominate a parcel of state land or an existing campground located on state land for
32 designation as a state campground.33 (2)(a) "Campground" means real property made available to individuals for camping,
34 whether camping by tent, trailer, camper, cabin, recreational vehicle, or similar
35 equipment.36 (b) "Campground" includes the outdoor recreational infrastructure, as that term is
37 defined in Section 51-9-901, located on the real property.38 (3) "Committee" means:39 (a) the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee if the
40 Legislature is not in session; or41 (b) the House or Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Standing
42 Committee if the Legislature is in session.43 (4) "State campground" means a campground:44 (a) located on state land;45 (b) confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the
46 campground; and47 (c) designated in accordance with this part.48 (5) "State land" means land owned or managed by the state.49 Section 2. Section **79-4-1302** is enacted to read:50 **79-4-1302 . Application for state campground -- Rulemaking -- Division duties --**
51 **Committee duties.**52 (1) The division may make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
53 Administrative Rulemaking Act:54 (a) to establish the process for the submission of an application; and55 (b) for the administration of a state campground, subject to valid existing rights and
56 Section 79-4-1304.57 (2) When the division receives a completed application, the division shall:58 (a) evaluate the application;59 (b) submit the completed application and the results of the division's evaluation
60 described in Subsection (2)(a) to the following entities or individuals for review, as
61 applicable:

- 62 (i) the legislative body of a county that contains some portion of the proposed state
63 campground within the county's geographic borders;
- 64 (ii) the legislative body of a municipality that contains some portion of the proposed
65 state campground within the municipality's geographic borders;
- 66 (iii) each legislator whose legislative district is located within the geographic borders
67 of the proposed state campground; and
- 68 (iv) a state agency if the proposed state campground is located within the
69 jurisdictional boundaries of the state agency; and
- 70 (c) provide a written report to a committee that includes:
- 71 (i) the results of the division's evaluation described in Subsection (2)(a); and
72 (ii) any resolution or comment the division received from an entity or individual
73 described in Subsection (2)(b).
- 74 (3) The division may:
- 75 (a) evaluate private and federal land with the potential to be purchased by, transferred to,
76 or leased to the state for potential designation as a state campground; and
- 77 (b) enter into negotiations with the relevant federal agency or private entity to pursue the
78 transfer, sale, or lease of private or federal land for the proposed state campground, as
79 appropriations allow.
- 80 (4) Except as provided in Subsection (5), after reviewing a report described in Subsection
81 (2)(c), a committee may:
- 82 (a) recommend that the Legislature and governor approve the proposed state
83 campground in accordance with Section 79-4-1303; or
- 84 (b) return the report to the division for further study and evaluation.
- 85 (5) A committee may not recommend a proposed state campground to the Legislature if:
- 86 (a) a county or municipality described in Subsection (2)(b)(i) or (ii) adopts a resolution
87 opposing the proposed state campground; or
- 88 (b) designating the state campground may cause a state agency to breach a fiduciary,
89 contractual, or other legal obligation governing management or use of land that is
90 included within the geographic borders of the proposed state campground.

91 Section 3. Section **79-4-1303** is enacted to read:

92 **79-4-1303 . Designation.**

- 93 (1) The Legislature and the governor shall designate a state campground through concurrent
94 resolution.
- 95 (2) Notwithstanding the requirements described in Section 79-4-1302, the Legislature and

96 governor may act under this section to designate a state campground.

97 Section 4. Section **79-4-1304** is enacted to read:

98 **79-4-1304 . Management.**

99 (1)(a) Subject to Subsection (2), the division is responsible for the management of a
100 state campground.

101 (b) The division may contract with another agency or entity for management services
102 related to the management of a state campground.

103 (2) Upon Title 63L, Chapter 8, Utah Public Land Management Act, taking effect as
104 described in Section 63L-8-602, the government entity responsible for management of
105 the public lands is responsible for the management of a state campground.

106 Section 5. **Effective date.**

107 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.