

HB0456S01 compared with HB0456

{Omitted text} shows text that was in HB0456 but was omitted in HB0456S01

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0456 but was inserted into HB0456S01

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Transient Room Tax Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Bridger Bolinder

Senate Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies the transient room tax and creates the Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Grant Program.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms and modifies definitions;
- ▶ modifies the acceptable uses of transient room tax revenue;
- ▶ authorizes a county to enter into an interlocal agreement with a municipality within the county to share county transient room tax revenue;
- ▶ modifies reporting requirements on counties that impose transient room tax;
- ▶ provides that certain municipalities may appoint board members to a tourism tax advisory board;
- ▶ requires the state auditor to review a county's report on transient room tax and determine if the report is sufficient and compliant;
- ▶ modifies the state tax rate on short-term rentals of tourist home, hotel, motel, or trailer court accommodations and services;

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- 20 ▶ directs the State Tax Commission to deposit revenue the state collects from the secondary rate
on short-term rentals of tourist home, hotel, motel, or trailer court accommodations and services into the
Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Grant Fund, the {~~General~~} Long-term Capital Projects Fund, and the
counties of the state;
- 24 ▶ extends the sunset on the State Search and Rescue Advisory Board;
- 25 ▶ establishes an outdoor recreation mitigation grant program within the Division of Outdoor
Recreation;
- 25 ▶ creates the Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Grant Fund;
- 26 ▶ {~~establishes an outdoor recreation mitigation grant program within the Division of
Outdoor Recreation;~~}
- 28 ▶ describes the criteria to apply for and receive an outdoor recreation mitigation grant;
- 29 ▶ describes the acceptable uses of an outdoor recreation mitigation grant;
- 30 ▶ requires the Division of Outdoor Recreation to provide a written report annually to the Revenue
and Taxation and Political Subdivisions Interim committees;
- 32 ▶ repeals the sunset date on the Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel Health Insurance
Program; and
- 34 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

35 Money Appropriated in this Bill:

36 None

38 This bill provides a special effective date.

40 AMENDS:

- 41 **17-31-2** (Effective 07/01/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 15 (Effective
07/01/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 15
- 42 **17-31-5** (Effective 07/01/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 360 (Effective
07/01/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 360
- 43 **17-31-5.5** (Effective 07/01/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 479 (Effective
07/01/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 479
- 44 **17-31-8** (Effective 07/01/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68 (Effective
07/01/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68
- 45 **17-36-37** (Effective 07/01/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 288 (Effective
07/01/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 288

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- 46 **59-28-102** (Effective 01/01/26), as enacted by Laws of Utah 2017, Chapter 166 (Effective
47 01/01/26), as enacted by Laws of Utah 2017, Chapter 166
- 48 **59-28-103** (Effective 01/01/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 68 (Effective
49 01/01/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 68
- 50 **63I-1-253** (Effective 07/01/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special Session,
51 Chapter 5 (Effective 07/01/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special Session,
52 Chapter 5
- 53 **67-3-12** (Effective 07/01/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 16, 502 (Effective
54 07/01/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 16, 502
- 55 **79-7-203** (Effective 07/01/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 33 (Effective
56 07/01/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 33

57 ENACTS:

- 58 **79-9-101** (Effective 07/01/25), Utah Code Annotated 1953 (Effective 07/01/25), Utah Code
59 Annotated 1953
- 60 **79-9-102** (Effective 07/01/25), Utah Code Annotated 1953 (Effective 07/01/25), Utah Code
61 Annotated 1953
- 62 **79-9-103** (Effective 07/01/25), Utah Code Annotated 1953 (Effective 07/01/25), Utah Code
63 Annotated 1953
- 64 **79-9-104** (Effective 07/01/25), Utah Code Annotated 1953 (Effective 07/01/25), Utah Code
65 Annotated 1953
-
- 66 **79-9-201** (Effective 07/01/25), Utah Code Annotated 1953 (Effective 07/01/25), Utah Code
67 Annotated 1953
- 68 **79-9-202** (Effective 07/01/25), Utah Code Annotated 1953 (Effective 07/01/25), Utah Code
69 Annotated 1953
- 70 **79-9-203** (Effective 07/01/25), Utah Code Annotated 1953 (Effective 07/01/25), Utah Code
71 Annotated 1953
- 72 **79-9-301** (Effective 07/01/25), Utah Code Annotated 1953 (Effective 07/01/25), Utah Code
73 Annotated 1953

74

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

76 Section 1. Section **17-31-2** is amended to read:

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- 64 **17-31-2. (Effective 07/01/25)Purposes of transient room tax and expenditure of revenue**
-- Purchase or lease of facilities -- Mitigating impacts of recreation, tourism, or conventions --
Issuance of bonds.
- 65 (1) As used in this section:
- 66 [(a) "Aircraft" means the same as that term is defined in Section 72-10-102.]
- 67 [(b)] (a) "Airport" means the same as that term is defined in Section 72-10-102.
- 68 [(c)] "Airport authority" means the same as that term is defined in Section 72-10-102.]
- 69 [(d)] (b) "Airport operator" means the same as that term is defined in Section 72-10-102.
- 70 [(e) "Base year revenue" means the amount of revenue generated by a transient room tax and collected
by a county for fiscal year 2018-19.]
- 72 [(f) "Base year promotion expenditure" means the amount of revenue generated by a transient room tax
that a county spent for the purpose described in Subsection (2)(a) during fiscal year 2018-19.]
- 75 [(g) "Eligible town" means a town that:]
- 76 [(i) is located within a county that has a national park within or partially within the county's boundaries;
and]
- 78 [(ii) imposes a resort communities tax authorized by Section 59-12-401.]
- 79 [(h) "Emergency medical services provider" means an eligible town, a special district, or a special
service district.]
- 81 [(e) "Mitigation" means activity to address the direct impacts of recreation, tourism, or conventions
in a county, including sanitation and solid waste disposal, emergency medical services, search and
rescue services, law enforcement, road repair, and road upgrades.]
- 85 [(i)] [(d)] (c) ["Tourism"] [Promoting] "Establishing and promoting tourism" means [an activity] to
develop, encourage, solicit, or market [tourism] features or opportunities within {the} a county that
[attracts] attract transient guests to the county, including planning, development, and advertising[
for the purpose described in Subsection (2)(a)(i)].
- 87 (d) "Mitigation" means activity to address the direct impacts of recreation, tourism, or conventions in
a county, including sanitation and solid waste disposal, emergency medical services, search and
rescue services, law enforcement, road repair, and road upgrades.
- 89 [(j) "Town" means a municipality that is classified as a town in accordance with Section 10-2-301.]
- 91 [(k)] (e) "Transient room tax" means a tax at a rate not to exceed 4.25% authorized by Section
59-12-301.

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- 93 (2) Subject to the requirements of this section, a county legislative body may impose the transient room tax for a purpose described in Subsection (3).
- 95 (3) A county legislative body may expend revenue generated by the transient room tax imposed under this section and any revenue the county receives from the State Tax Commission under Section 59-28-103 only~~[for the purposes of]~~:
- 98 (a) for the purpose of establishing and promoting:
- 99 (i) tourism;~~[or]~~
- 100 (ii) recreation~~[;]~~ ;
- 101 (iii) film production~~[, and]~~ ; or
- 102 (iv) conventions;
- 103 (b) to pay for tourism- or recreation-related facilities in the county, including acquiring, leasing, constructing, furnishing, maintaining, or operating:
- 105 (i) convention meeting rooms;
- 106 (ii) exhibit halls;
- 107 (iii) visitor information centers;
- 108 (iv) museums;
- 109 (v) sports and recreation facilities including practice fields, stadiums, ~~[and]~~ arenas, and trails;
- 111 ~~[(vi) related facilities;]~~
- 112 ~~[(vii) (vi) [if a national park is located within or partially within the county's boundaries,]~~ the following on any route to a recreation destination within the county, as designated by the county legislative body:
- 115 (A) transit service, including shuttle service; and
- 116 (B) parking infrastructure; and
- 117 ~~[(viii) (vii) an airport, if[;]~~
- 118 ~~[(A) the county is a county of the fourth, fifth, or sixth class; and]~~
- 119 ~~[(B)]~~ the county is the airport operator of the airport;
- 120 (c) for the purpose of acquiring land, leasing land, or making payments for construction or infrastructure improvements required for or related to the ~~[purposes]~~ facilities listed in Subsection ~~[(2)(b)]~~ (3)(b);
- 123 (d) ~~[as required to mitigate the impacts of recreation, tourism, or conventions in counties of the fourth, fifth, and sixth class, paying for]~~ to pay mitigation costs, including:

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- 125 (i) solid waste disposal operations;
- 126 (ii) emergency medical services;
- 127 (iii) search and rescue activities;
- 128 (iv) law enforcement activities; and
- 129 (v) road repair and upgrade of:
- 130 (A) class B roads, as defined in Section 72-3-103;
- 131 (B) class C roads, as defined in Section 72-3-104; or
- 132 (C) class D roads, as defined in Section 72-3-105; and
- 133 (e) ~~[making-]~~ to make the annual payment of principal, interest, premiums, and necessary reserves for any of the aggregate of bonds authorized under Subsection ~~[(5)]~~ (4).
- 135 ~~[(3)]~~
- . (a) ~~The county legislative body of a county that imposes a transient room tax at a rate of 3% or less may expend the revenue generated as provided in Subsection (4), after making any reduction required by Subsection (6).]~~
- 138 ~~[(b) The county legislative body of a county that imposes a transient room tax at a rate that exceeds 3% or increases the rate of transient room tax above 3% may expend:]~~
- 140 ~~[(i) the revenue generated from the transient room tax at a rate of 3% as provided in Subsection (4), after making any reduction required by Subsection (6); and]~~
- 142 ~~[(ii) the revenue generated from the portion of the rate that exceeds 3%:]~~
- 143 ~~[(A) for any combination of the purposes described in Subsections (2) and (5); and]~~
- 144 ~~[(B) regardless of the limitation on expenditures for the purposes described in Subsection (4).]~~
- 146 ~~[(4) Subject to Subsections (6) and (7), a county may not expend more than 1/3 of the revenue generated by a rate of transient room tax that does not exceed 3%, for any combination of the purposes described in Subsections (2)(b) through (2)(e).]~~
- 149 ~~[(5)]~~ (4)
- . ~~[(a)]~~ The county legislative body may issue bonds or cause bonds to be issued, as permitted by law, to pay all or part of any costs incurred for the purposes set forth in Subsections ~~[(2)(b)]~~ (3)(b) through ~~[(2)(d)]~~ (3)(d) that are permitted to be paid from bond proceeds.
- 153 ~~[(b) If a county legislative body does not need the revenue generated by the transient room tax for payment of principal, interest, premiums, and reserves on bonds issued as provided in Subsection~~

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(2)(e), the county legislative body shall expend that revenue for the purposes described in Subsection (2), subject to the limitation of Subsection (4).]

158 [(6)

. (a) In addition to the purposes described in Subsection (2), a county legislative body:]

159 [(i) may expend up to 4% of the total revenue generated by a transient room tax to pay a provider
for emergency medical services in one or more eligible towns; and]

161 [(ii) may expend up to 10% of the total revenue generated by a transient room tax for visitor
management and destination development if:]

163 [(A) a national park is located within or partially within the county's boundaries; and]

165 [(B) the county's tourism tax advisory board created under Subsection 17-31-8(1)(a) or the substantially
similar body as described in Subsection 17-31-8(1)(b) has prioritized and recommended the use of
the revenue in accordance with Subsection 17-31-8(4).]

169 [(b) A county legislative body shall reduce the amount that the county is authorized to expend for
the purposes described in Subsection (4) by subtracting the amount of transient room tax revenue
expended in accordance with Subsection (6)(a) from the amount of revenue described in Subsection
(4).]

173 [(7)

. (a) Except as provided in Subsection (7)(b), a county legislative body in a county of the fourth, fifth, or
sixth class shall expend the revenue generated by a transient room tax as follows:]

176 [(i) an amount equal to the county's base year promotion expenditure for the purpose described in
Subsection (2)(a)(i);]

178 [(ii) an amount equal to the difference between the county's base year revenue and the county's base
year promotion expenditure in accordance with Subsections (3) through (6); and]

181 [(iii)

. (A) 37% of the revenue that exceeds the county's base year revenue for the purpose described in
Subsection (2)(a)(i); and]

183 [(B) subject to Subsection (7)(c), 63% of the revenue that exceeds the county's base year revenue
for any combination of the purposes described in Subsections (2)(a)(ii) through (e) or to pay an
emergency medical services provider for emergency medical services in one or more eligible
towns.]

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- [~~(b) A county legislative body in a county of the fourth, fifth, or sixth class with one or more national recreation areas administered by the National Park Service or the Forest Service or national parks within or partially within the county's boundaries shall expend the revenue generated by a transient room tax as follows:~~]
- 191 [~~(i) for a purpose described in Subsection (2)(a) and subject to the limitation described in Subsection (7) (d), the greater of:~~]
- 193 [~~(A) an amount equal to the county's base year promotion expenditure; or]~~
- 194 [~~(B) 37% of the transient room tax revenue; and]~~
- 195 [~~(ii) the remainder of the transient room tax not expended in accordance with Subsection (7)(b)(i) for any combination of the purposes described in Subsection (2) and, subject to the limitation described in Subsection (7)(c), Subsection (6):]~~]
- 198 [~~(e) A county legislative body in a county of the fourth, fifth, or sixth class may not:~~]
- 199 [~~(i) expend more than 4% of the revenue generated by a transient room tax to pay an emergency medical services provider for emergency medical services in one or more eligible towns; or]~~
- 202 [~~(ii) expend revenue generated by a transient room tax for the purpose described in Subsection (2)(c) in an amount that exceeds the county's base year promotion expenditure:]~~]
- 205 [~~(d) A county legislative body may not expend more than 1/5 of the revenue described in Subsection (7) (b)(i) for a purpose described in Subsection (2)(a)(ii):]~~]
- 207 [~~(e) The provisions of this Subsection (7) apply notwithstanding any other provision of this section:]~~]
- 209 [~~(f) If the total amount of revenue generated by a transient room tax in a county of the fourth, fifth, or sixth class is less than the county's base year promotion expenditure:]~~]
- 211 [~~(i) Subsections (7)(a) through (d) do not apply; and]~~
- 212 [~~(ii) the county legislative body shall expend the revenue generated by the transient room tax in accordance with Subsections (3) through (6):]~~]
- 214 (5) A county that generates ~~{ \$2 }~~ **\$1** million or more in revenue from a transient room tax imposed under this section in the preceding ~~{ fiscal }~~ **calendar** year:
- 216 (a) shall expend, at a minimum, the revenue the county generates from the first 2% of the tax rate of a transient room tax on a purpose described in Subsection (3)(a); and
- 218 (b) may expend the remainder of the revenue the county generates from a transient room tax and beginning January 1, 2026, receives from the State Tax Commission under Section 59-28-103 on any purpose described in Subsection (3).

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- 223 (6) A county that generates \$500,000 or more but less than \$1 million in revenue from a transient room
225 tax imposed under this section in the preceding calendar year:
- 227 (a) shall expend, at a minimum, the revenue the county generates from the first 1% of the tax rate of a
transient room tax on a purpose described in Subsection (3)(a); and
- 227 (b) may expend the remainder of the revenue the county generates from a transient room tax and,
beginning January 1, 2026, receives from the State Tax Commission under Section 59-28-103, on
any purpose described in Subsection (3).
- 221 ~~{(6)}~~ (7) A county that is not described in Subsection (5) or (6) may expend the revenue the county
generates from a transient room tax, and beginning January 1, 2026, receives from the State Tax
Commission under Section 59-28-103, on any purpose described in Subsection (3).
- 224 ~~{(7)}~~ (8) The legislative body of a county may cause revenue generated by a transient room tax, or
revenue received from the State Tax Commission under Section 59-28-103, to be expended by a
municipality within the county if:
- 227 (a) the revenue the county shares with the municipality is not required to be spent by the county for a
purpose described in Subsection (3)(a);
- 229 (b) the county and municipality enter into an interlocal agreement:
- 230 (i) governing the use of the revenue; and
- 231 (ii) requiring the municipality to report the municipality's expenditures of the revenue to the county; and
- 233 (c) the municipality receiving revenue generated by the county's transient room tax agrees to and
expends the revenue for a purpose described in Subsection (3).
- 245 Section 2. Section **17-31-5** is amended to read:
- 246 **17-31-5. (Effective 07/01/25)General powers and duties of a county legislative body related**
to the transient room tax.
- 238 (1) The legislative body of each county that imposes a transient room tax in accordance with Section
17-31-2:
- 240 (a) shall, except as provided in Subsection (2), at least annually consider the priorities and
recommendations of the county's tourism tax advisory board created under Subsection 17-31-8(1)
(a) or the substantially similar body as described in Subsection 17-31-8(1)(b) in one or more public
meetings before finalizing decisions on expenditures of revenue from the transient room tax in each
fiscal year;

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- (b) shall prepare and provide the annual written report for each fiscal year as described in Section 17-31-5.5; and
- 247 (c) may do and perform any and all other acts and things necessary, [~~convenient,~~]desirable, or appropriate to carry out the provisions of [~~Sections 17-31-2 through 17-31-5.5~~] this chapter.
- 250 (2) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply to the legislative body of a county if:
- 251 (a) the legislative body of the county has entered into a written contract with a substantially similar body to a tourism tax advisory board as described in Subsection 17-31-8(1)(b); and
- 254 (b) the written contract described in Subsection (2)(a) clearly delineates how the expenditures of revenue from the transient room tax are to be spent.
- 266 Section 3. Section **17-31-5.5** is amended to read:
- 267 **17-31-5.5. (Effective 07/01/25)Report by county legislative body -- Content.**
- 258 (1) The legislative body of each county that imposes a transient room tax under Section 59-12-301 or a tourism, recreation, cultural, convention, and airport facilities tax under Section 59-12-603 shall:
- 261 (a) ensure that the annual financial report required by Section 17-36-37 includes a breakdown of expenditures:
- 263 (i) for revenue generated by the transient room tax and received from the State Tax Commission under Section 59-28-103, according to the allowable expenditure categories described in Subsection 17-31-2(3); and
- 266 (ii) for revenue generated by the tourism, recreation, cultural, convention, and airport facilities tax, according to the allowable expenditure categories described in Sections 59-12-602 and 59-12-603; and
- 269 (b) prepare annually a written report in accordance with Subsection (2).
- 270 [~~(2) The report described in Subsection (1) shall include a breakdown of expenditures into the following categories:]~~
- 272 [~~(a) for the transient room tax, identification of expenditures for:]~~
- 273 [~~(i) establishing and promoting:]~~
- 274 [~~(A) recreation;]~~
- 275 [~~(B) tourism;]~~
- 276 [~~(C) film production; and]~~
- 277 [~~(D) conventions;]~~
- 278 [(ii) acquiring, leasing, constructing, furnishing, or operating;]

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- 279 [~~(A) convention meeting rooms;~~]
280 [~~(B) exhibit halls;~~]
281 [~~(C) visitor information centers;~~]
282 [~~(D) museums; and~~]
283 [~~(E) related facilities;~~]
284 [~~(iii) acquiring or leasing land required for or related to the purposes listed in Subsection (2)(a)(ii);~~]
286 [~~(iv) mitigation costs as identified in Subsection 17-31-2(2)(d); and~~]
287 [~~(v) making the annual payment of principal, interest, premiums, and necessary reserves for any or the
aggregate of bonds issued to pay for costs referred to in Subsections 17-31-2(2)(e) and (5)(a); and~~]
290 [~~(b) for the tourism, recreation, cultural, convention, and airport facilities tax, identification of
expenditures for:~~]
292 [~~(i) financing tourism promotion, which means an activity to develop, encourage, solicit, or market
tourism that attracts transient guests to the county, including planning, product development, and
advertising;~~]
295 [~~(ii) the development, operation, and maintenance of the following facilities as defined in Section
59-12-602:~~]
297 [~~(A) an airport facility;~~]
298 [~~(B) a convention facility;~~]
299 [~~(C) a cultural facility;~~]
300 [~~(D) a recreation facility; and~~]
301 [~~(E) a tourist facility;~~]
302 [~~(iii) mitigation costs as identified in Subsection 59-12-603(2)(b); and~~]
303 [~~(iv) a pledge as security for evidences of indebtedness under Subsection 59-12-603(3).]~~
305 [~~(3) (2)~~]
. (a) For the transient room tax, the written report described in Subsection [~~(1)~~] (1)(b) shall include [~~a
breakdown of each expenditure described in Subsection (2)(a)(i), including~~]:
308 [(a) (i) [~~whether the expenditure was used for in-state and out-of-state promotion efforts~~] a
breakdown of promotion expenditures;
310 [(b) ~~an explanation of how the expenditure targeted a cost created by tourism; and~~]
311 [(c) ~~an accounting of the expenditure showing that the expenditure was used only for costs directly
related to a cost created by tourism.~~]

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- 313 (ii) if the county caused revenue generated by the transient room tax to be expended by a
314 municipality within the county, as described in Subsection {~~17-31-2(7)~~} 17-31-2(8), a
315 description:
- 316 (A) of each interlocal agreement the county entered into with a municipality; and
- 317 (B) the amount of revenue the county shared with a municipality pursuant to an interlocal agreement;
- 319 (iii) the number of search and rescue efforts conducted by the county in the previous fiscal year;
- 321 (iv) the total cost of search and rescue efforts and emergency medical services that were related to
322 tourism or recreation within the eligible county in the previous fiscal year;
- 324 (v) a description of any factors that made a search and rescue effort or emergency medical service
325 more expensive or difficult, including the condition of roads within the county; {and}
- 327 (vi) what money, if any, the county was able to recover in the previous fiscal year from an
328 individual on whose behalf the county incurred the cost of search and rescue or emergency
329 medical services{~~;~~} and
- 340 (vii)
- 341 (A) data on the percentages of individuals on whose behalf the county incurred the cost of search and
342 rescue or emergency medical services who were in-state visitors to the county, out-of-state visitors
343 to the county, or residents of the county; and
- 344 (B) if data described in Subsection (2)(a)(vii)(A) is unavailable regarding an individual on whose behalf
345 the county incurred the cost of search and rescue or emergency medical services, the number of
346 individuals whose data described in Subsection (2)(a)(vii)(A) is unavailable.
- 348 (b) The state auditor, in consultation with the Utah Office of Tourism created in Section 63N-7-102,
349 shall:
- 350 ~~{(b)}~~ (i) ~~{The state auditor, in consultation with the entities described in Subsection (3), shall}~~ create a
351 form for a financial report and a form for a written report required under this section{~~;~~} ;
- 352 (ii) designate at least one employee within the state auditor's office to serve as the point of contact for
353 counties preparing a financial report or written report under this section; and
- 355 (iii) if the state auditor's office determines it is advisable, create written guidance to assist counties in
356 preparing a financial report or written report under this section.
- 357 [(4)] (3) On or before October 1, the county legislative body shall provide a copy of the annual written
358 report described in Subsection [(1)] (1)(b) for the previous fiscal year to the state auditor.~~{~~;~~}~~
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~~[(a) the Utah Office of Tourism { created in Section 63N-7-102 } within the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity;]~~

337 ~~[(b) the county's tourism tax advisory board { , or corresponding body, as described in Section 17-31-8 };~~
~~and]~~

339 ~~{(c) the Division of Emergency Management created in Section 53-2a-103.}~~

340 [(e) the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst.]

363 Section 4. Section **17-31-8** is amended to read:

364 **17-31-8. (Effective 07/01/25) Tourism tax advisory boards.**

343 (1)

. (a) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(b), any county that collects the following taxes shall operate a tourism tax advisory board:

345 (i) the tax allowed under Section 59-12-301; or

346 (ii) the tax allowed under Section 59-12-603.

347 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(a), a county is exempt from Subsection (1)(a) if the county has an existing board, council, committee, convention visitor's bureau, or body that substantially conforms with Subsections (2), (3), and (4).

350 (2) A tourism tax advisory board created under Subsection (1) shall consist of at least five members.

352 (3)

. (a)

. ~~{(a) As used in this Subsection (3), "specified municipality" means:}~~

353 ~~{(i) a municipality where 50% or more of a county's transient room tax revenue is generated, as determined through analysis of publicly available data; or}~~

355 ~~{(ii) {if 50% or more of a county's transient room tax is generated within three or fewer municipalities in the county collectively, each of the three or fewer municipalities where 50% or more of a county's transient room tax is collectively generated, as determined through analysis of publicly available data.}}~~

A tourism tax advisory board shall be composed of the following members that are residents of the county:

361 ~~{(a)} (i)~~

376 [(a)] (i) a majority of the members shall be current employees of entities in the county that are subject to the taxes referred to in Section 59-12-301 or 59-12-603; ~~{ and }~~

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- 363 ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) ~~[the balance]~~ at least two of the board's membership shall be employees of recreational facilities, convention facilities, museums, cultural attractions, or other tourism related industries located within the county ~~{f.{} } -and~~.
- 381 (b) A tourism tax advisory board may add additional members to the board, including board members who represent the interests of municipalities in the county.
- 366 ~~{(iii)}~~ (c) ~~{if the-}~~ If a county generates 50% or more of the county's ~~{transient room tax-}~~ revenue ~~{from three or fewer municipalities within-}~~ generated by the imposition of a tax described in Subsection (1)(a) within one municipality in the county, ~~{one-}~~ the tourism tax advisory board for that county shall include a board member ~~{appointed by-}~~ to represent the ~~{legislative body-}~~ interests of ~~{each specified municipality within-}~~ the ~~{county-}~~ municipality.
- 369 (4)
- (a) Each tourism tax advisory board shall advise the county legislative body on the best use of revenues collected from the tax allowed under Section 59-12-301 by providing the legislative body with a priority listing for proposed expenditures based on projected available tax revenues supplied to the board by the county legislative body on an annual basis.
- 374 (b) Each tourism tax advisory board in a county operating under the county commission form of government under Section 17-52a-201 or the expanded county commission form under Section 17-52a-202 shall advise the county legislative body on the best use of revenues collected from the tax allowed under Section 59-12-603 by providing the legislative body with a priority listing for proposed expenditures based on projected available tax revenues supplied to the board by the county legislative body on an annual basis.
- 381 (5) A member of any county tourism tax advisory board:
- 382 (a) may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's services; and
- 383 (b) may receive per diem and travel expenses incurred in the performance of the member's official duties, in accordance with Section 11-55-103.
- 403 Section 5. Section ~~17-36-37~~ is amended to read:
- 404 17-36-37. (Effective 07/01/25) Finance officer -- Annual financial statement -- Contents -- Duties of state auditor.
- 388 (1) The finance officer of each county, within 180 days after the close of each fiscal period, or, for a county that has adopted a fiscal period that is a biennial period, within 180 days after both the

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midpoint and the close of the fiscal period, except as provided by Section 17-36-38, shall prepare and make available to the governing body an annual financial report that shall contain:

- 393 (a) a statement of revenues and expenditures and a comparison with the budget of the county general
fund, similar statements of all other funds for which budgets are required, and statements of
revenues and expenditures or of income and expense for all other operating funds of the county;
- 397 (b) a balance sheet of each fund and a combined balance sheet of all funds as of:
- 398 (i) for a county that has adopted a fiscal period that is a biennial period, the midpoint and the close of
the fiscal period; and
- 400 (ii) for each other county, the close of the fiscal period; or
- 401 (c) any other reports the governing body may require, including work performance data, tax levies,
taxable values, details of bonded indebtedness, and historical facts of interest to the governing body
and the public.
- 404 (2) Copies of the annual report shall be furnished to the state auditor and made a matter of public record
in the office of the finance officer.
- 406 (3) The statement of revenues and expenditures described in Subsection (1)(a) shall specifically identify
when revenue is restricted for only statutorily authorized expenditures, including:
- 409 (a) transient room tax, ~~including any revenue provided to the county by the State Tax Commission~~
~~under Section 39-28-103,~~ according to the expenditure authorizations described in Section 17-31-2;
and
- 411 (b) tourism, recreation, cultural, convention, and airport facilities tax, according to the expenditure
authorizations described in Sections 59-12-602 and 59-12-603.
- 413 (4) The state auditor:
- 414 (a) may provide guidance to the finance officer of each county to ensure uniform reporting across
counties;
- 416 (b) may include the information described in Subsection (3) on the public finance website described in
Section 67-3-12;
- 418 ~~{(c) {shall, on a regular basis determined by the state auditor, evaluate a county's annual financial report
in regard to revenues and expenditures described in Subsection (3) and determine:} }~~
- 421 ~~{(i)}~~ (c) shall, on a regular basis determined by the state auditor, evaluate a county's annual financial
report in regard to revenues and expenditures described in Subsection (3) and determine whether a
county's reporting is sufficient to ensure transparency and accountability; and

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- 423 ~~{(ii)}~~ (d) shall, upon receipt of a county's written report under Section 17-31-5.5 and in conjunction
with evaluating the information described in Subsection (3), determine if a county is compliant with
the expenditure authorizations described in Sections 17-31-2, 59-12-602, and 59-12-603.
- 425 (5) If the state auditor determines under Subsection (4)(c) that a county is not sufficiently reporting or
determines under Subsection ~~{(4)(c)(i) or }~~ (4)(d) that a county is not compliant ~~{under Subsection~~
~~(4)(c)(ii)}~~, the state auditor:
- 427 (a) shall provide the county finance officer with written notice of the determination, including the
rationale for the determination; and
- 429 (b) shall provide the county finance officer with an opportunity to respond to the determination in
writing, including an opportunity to correct any deficiencies identified by the state auditor.
- 432 (6) If the auditor determines, after providing a county with an opportunity to respond and correct any
deficiencies~~{,}~~ as described in Subsection (5)(b), that a county is still not in compliance with this
section, the auditor:
- 435 (a) shall provide notice of the determination to the Division of Outdoor Recreation created in Section
79-7-201;
- 437 (b) may provide notice to the Revenue and Taxation Interim {committee} Committee and the Political
Subdivisions Interim {committee} Committee, or if the Legislature is in session, the Legislative
Management Committee; and
- 440 (c) may take any action authorized in Section 51-2a-401 or other provision of law.
- 462 Section 6. Section **59-28-102** is amended to read:
- 463 **59-28-102. (Effective 01/01/26)Definitions.**
- As used in this chapter:
- 444 (1) "Agreement" means the same as that term is defined in Section 59-12-102.
- 445 (2) "Certified service provider" means the same as that term is defined in Section 59-12-102.
- 446 (3) "Initial rate" means a rate of 0.32%.
- 447 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) "Model 2 seller" means the same as that term is defined in Section 59-12-102.
- 448 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) "Purchaser" means the same as that term is defined in Section 59-12-102.
- 449 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) "Sales price" means the same as that term is defined in Section 59-12-102.
- 450 (7) "Secondary rate" means a rate of 1.0%.
- 451 ~~[(6)]~~ (8) "Seller" means the same as that term is defined in Section 59-12-102.
- 473 Section 7. Section **59-28-103** is amended to read:

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- 474 **59-28-103. (Effective 01/01/26)Imposition -- Rate -- Revenue distribution.**
- 454 (1) Subject to the other provisions of this chapter, the state shall impose a tax on the transactions described in Subsection 59-12-103(1)(i) at~~[a rate of .32%]~~ :
- 456 (a) the initial rate; and
- 457 (b) the secondary rate.
- 458 (2) The tax imposed under this chapter is in addition to any other taxes imposed on the transactions described in Subsection 59-12-103(1)(i).
- 460 (3)
- . (a)
- . (i) Subject to Subsection (3)(a)(ii), the commission shall deposit 6% of the revenue the state collects from the tax under this chapter at the initial rate into the Hospitality and Tourism Management Education Account created in Section 53F-9-501 to fund the Hospitality and Tourism Management Career and Technical Education Pilot Program created in Section 53E-3-515.
- 465 (ii) The commission may not deposit more than \$300,000 into the Hospitality and Tourism Management Education Account under Subsection (3)(a)(i) in a fiscal year.
- 468 (b) Except for the amount deposited into the Hospitality and Tourism Management Education Account under Subsection (3)(a) and the administrative charge retained under Subsection 59-28-104(4), the commission shall deposit ~~[any]~~ the remainder of the revenue the state collects from the tax under this chapter at the initial rate into the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Account created in Section 79-8-106 to fund:
- 473 (i) the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Grant Program created in Section 79-8-401; and the Recreation Restoration Infrastructure Grant Program created in Section 79-8-202.
- 476 (4)
- . (a) The commission shall deposit 25% of the revenue the state collects from the tax under this chapter at the secondary rate into the Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Grant Fund created in Section 79-9-103.
- 479 (b) The commission shall distribute 25% of the revenue the state collects {under} ~~from the tax under this chapter at~~ the secondary rate to the counties of the state, in direct proportion to the percentage of revenue generated by a tax under this chapter in each county.
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- (c) The commission shall distribute the remaining revenue the state collects from the tax under this chapter at the secondary rate to the Division of Finance, which shall transfer the revenue into the Long-term Capital Projects Fund.
- 485 (d) A county receiving revenue under Subsection (4)(b) shall expend the revenue as described in Section 17-31-2.
- 509 Section 8. Section **63I-1-253** is amended to read:
- 510 **63I-1-253. (Effective 07/01/25) Repeal dates: Titles 53 through 53G.**
- 489 (1) Section 53-1-122, Road Rage Awareness and Prevention Restricted Account, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 491 (2) Section 53-2a-105, Emergency Management Administration Council created -- Function -- Composition -- Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 493 (3) Section 53-2a-1103, Search and Rescue Advisory Board -- Members -- Compensation, is repealed July 1, ~~[2027]~~ 2030.
- 495 (4) Section 53-2a-1104, General duties of the Search and Rescue Advisory Board, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 497 (5) Title 53, Chapter 2a, Part 15, Grid Resilience Committee, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 498 (6) Section 53-2d-104, State Emergency Medical Services Committee -- Membership -- Expenses, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 500 [~~(7) Section 53-2d-703, Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel Health Insurance Program -- Creation -- Administration -- Eligibility -- Benefits -- Rulemaking -- Advisory board, is repealed July 1, 2027.]~~
- 503 [~~(8)~~ (7) Section 53-5-703, Board -- Membership -- Compensation -- Terms -- Duties, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 505 [~~(9)~~ (8) Section 53-11-104, Board, is repealed July 1, 2029.
- 506 [~~(10)~~ (9) Section 53-22-104.1, School Security Task Force -- Membership -- Duties -- Per diem -- Report -- Expiration, is repealed December 31, 2025.
- 508 [~~(11)~~ (10) Section 53-22-104.2, The School Security Task Force -- Education Advisory Board, is repealed December 31, 2025.
- 510 [~~(12)~~ (11) Subsection 53B-1-301(1)(j), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 512 [~~(13)~~ (12) Section 53B-7-709, Five-year performance goals, is repealed July 1, 2027.

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- 513 [~~(14)~~] (13) Title 53B, Chapter 8a, Part 3, Education Savings Incentive Program, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 515 [~~(15)~~] (14) Title 53B, Chapter 17, Part 11, USTAR Researchers, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 516 [~~(16)~~] (15) Section 53B-17-1203, SafeUT and School Safety Commission established -- Members, is repealed January 1, 2030.
- 518 [~~(17)~~] (16) Title 53B, Chapter 18, Part 16, USTAR Researchers, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 519 [~~(18)~~] (17) Title 53B, Chapter 18, Part 17, Food Security Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 520 [~~(19)~~] (18) Title 53B, Chapter 18, Part 18, Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research Center, is repealed July 1, 2028.
- 522 [~~(20)~~] (19) Title 53B, Chapter 35, Higher Education and Corrections Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 524 [~~(21)~~] (20) Subsection 53C-3-203(4)(b)(vii), regarding the distribution of money from the Land Exchange Distribution Account to the Geological Survey for test wells and other hydrologic studies in the West Desert, is repealed July 1, 2030.
- 527 [~~(22)~~] (21) Subsection 53E-1-201(1)(q), regarding the Higher Education and Corrections Council, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 529 [~~(23)~~] (22) Subsection 53E-2-304(6), regarding foreclosing a private right of action or waiver of governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 531 [~~(24)~~] (23) Subsection 53E-3-503(5), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 533 [~~(25)~~] (24) Subsection 53E-3-503(6), regarding coordinating councils for youth in care, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 535 [~~(26)~~] (25) Subsection 53E-4-202(8)(b), regarding a standards review committee, is repealed January 1, 2028.
- 537 [~~(27)~~] (26) Section 53E-4-203, Standards review committee, is repealed January 1, 2028.
- 538 [~~(28)~~] (27) Title 53E, Chapter 6, Part 5, Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission, is repealed July 1, 2033.
- 540 [~~(29)~~] (28) Subsection 53E-7-207(7), regarding a private right of action or waiver of governmental immunity, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 542 [~~(30)~~] (29) Section 53F-2-420, Intensive Services Special Education Pilot Program, is repealed July 1, 2024.
- 544 [~~(31)~~] (30) Section 53F-5-214, Grant for professional learning, is repealed July 1, 2025.

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- 545 [~~(32)~~] (31) Section 53F-5-215, Elementary teacher preparation grant, is repealed July 1, 2025.
- 547 [~~(33)~~] (32) Section 53F-5-219, Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program, is repealed July 1,
2025.
- 549 [~~(34)~~] (33) Title 53F, Chapter 10, Part 2, Capital Projects Evaluation Panel, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 551 [~~(35)~~] (34) Subsection 53G-4-608(2)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is repealed
January 1, 2025.
- 553 [~~(36)~~] (35) Subsection 53G-4-608(4)(b), regarding the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, is repealed
January 1, 2025.
- 555 [~~(37)~~] (36) Section 53G-9-212, Drinking water quality in schools, is repealed July 1, 2027.
- 578 Section 9. Section **67-3-12** is amended to read:
- 579 **67-3-12. (Effective 07/01/25)Utah {~~public finance website~~} Public Finance Website --**
Establishment and administration -- Records disclosure -- Exceptions.
- 559 (1) As used in this section:
- 560 (a)
- . (i) Subject to Subsections (1)(a)(ii) and (iii), "independent entity" means the same as that term is
defined in Section 63E-1-102.
- 562 (ii) "Independent entity" includes an entity that is part of an independent entity described in Subsection
(1)(a)(i), if the entity is considered a component unit of the independent entity under the
governmental accounting standards issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.
- 566 (iii) "Independent entity" does not include the Utah State Retirement Office created in Section
49-11-201.
- 568 (b) "Local education agency" means a school district or charter school.
- 569 (c) "Participating local entity" means:
- 570 (i) a county;
- 571 (ii) a municipality;
- 572 (iii) the State Fair Park Authority, created in Section 11-68-201;
- 573 (iv) a special district under Title 17B, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Special Districts;
- 575 (v) a special service district under Title 17D, Chapter 1, Special Service District Act;
- 576 (vi) a housing authority under Title 35A, Chapter 8, Part 4, Housing Authorities;
- 577 (vii) a public transit district under Title 17B, Chapter 2a, Part 8, Public Transit District Act;
- 579 (viii) except for a taxed interlocal entity as defined in Section 11-13-602:

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- 580 (A) an interlocal entity as defined in Section 11-13-103;
- 581 (B) a joint or cooperative undertaking as defined in Section 11-13-103; or
- 582 (C) any project, program, or undertaking entered into by interlocal agreement in accordance with Title
11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act;
- 584 (ix) except for a taxed interlocal entity as defined in Section 11-13-602, an entity that is part of an entity
described in Subsections (1)(c)(i) through (viii), if the entity is considered a component unit of the
entity described in Subsections (1)(c)(i) through (viii) under the governmental accounting standards
issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board; or
- 589 (x) a conservation district under Title 17D, Chapter 3, Conservation District Act.
- 590 (d)
- . (i) "Participating state entity" means the state of Utah, including its executive, legislative, and judicial
branches, its departments, divisions, agencies, boards, commissions, councils, committees, and
institutions.
- 593 (ii) "Participating state entity" includes an entity that is part of an entity described in Subsection (1)(d)
(i), if the entity is considered a component unit of the entity described in Subsection (1)(d)(i) under
the governmental accounting standards issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.
- 597 (e) "Public finance website" or "website" means the website established by the state auditor in
accordance with this section.
- 599 (f) "Public financial information" means each record that is required under this section or by rule made
by the Office of the State Auditor under Subsection (9) to be made available on the public finance
website, a participating local entity's website, or an independent entity's website.
- 603 (g) "Qualifying entity" means:
- 604 (i) an independent entity;
- 605 (ii) a participating local entity;
- 606 (iii) a participating state entity;
- 607 (iv) a local education agency;
- 608 (v) a state institution of higher education as defined in Section 53B-3-102;
- 609 (vi) the Utah Educational Savings Plan created in Section 53B-8a-103;
- 610 (vii) the Utah Housing Corporation created in Section 63H-8-201;
- 611 (viii) the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration created in Section 53C-1-201;
- 613 (ix) the Utah Capital Investment Corporation created in Section 63N-6-301; or

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- 614 (x) a URS-participating employer.
- 615 (h)
- . (i) "URS-participating employer" means an entity that:
- 616 (A) is a participating employer, as that term is defined in Section 49-11-102; and
- 617 (B) is not required to report public financial information under this section as a qualifying entity
described in Subsections (1)(g)(i) through (ix).
- 619 (ii) "URS-participating employer" does not include:
- 620 (A) the Utah State Retirement Office created in Section 49-11-201;
- 621 (B) an insurer that is subject to the disclosure requirements of Section 31A-4-113; or
- 623 (C) a withdrawing entity.
- 624 (i)
- . (i) "Withdrawing entity" means:
- 625 (A) an entity that elects to withdraw from participation in a system or plan under Title 49, Chapter
11, Part 6, Procedures and Records;
- 627 (B) until the date determined under Subsection 49-11-626(2)(a), a public employees' association
that provides the notice of intent described in Subsection 49-11-626(2)(b); and
- 630 (C) beginning on the date determined under Subsection 49-11-626(2)(a), a public employees'
association that makes an election described in Subsection 49-11-626(3).
- 633 (ii) "Withdrawing entity" includes a withdrawing entity, as that term is defined in Sections 49-11-623
and 49-11-624.
- 635 (2) The state auditor shall establish and maintain a public finance website in accordance with this
section.
- 637 (3) The website shall:
- 638 (a) permit Utah taxpayers to:
- 639 (i) view, understand, and track the use of taxpayer dollars by making public financial information
available on the Internet for participating state entities, independent entities, participating local
entities, and URS-participating employers, using the website; and
- 643 (ii) link to websites administered by participating local entities, independent entities, or URS-
participating employers that do not use the website for the purpose of providing public financial
information as required by this section and by rule made under Subsection (9);
- 647 (b) allow a person that has Internet access to use the website without paying a fee;

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- 648 (c) allow the public to search public financial information on the website;
- 649 (d) provide access to financial reports, financial audits, budgets, or other financial documents that are
used to allocate, appropriate, spend, and account for government funds, as may be established by
rule made in accordance with Subsection (9);
- 652 (e) have a unique and simplified website address;
- 653 (f) be guided by the principles described in Subsection 63A-16-202(2);
- 654 (g) include other links, features, or functionality that will assist the public in obtaining and reviewing
public financial information, as may be established by rule made under Subsection (9); and
- 657 (h) include a link to school report cards published on the State Board of Education's website under
Section 53E-5-211.
- 659 (4) The state auditor shall:
- 660 (a) establish and maintain the website, including the provision of equipment, resources, and personnel
as necessary;
- 662 (b) maintain an archive of all information posted to the website;
- 663 (c) coordinate and process the receipt and posting of public financial information from participating
state entities; and
- 665 (d) coordinate and regulate the posting of public financial information by participating local entities and
independent entities.
- 667 (5) A qualifying entity shall permit the public to view the qualifying entity's public financial
information by posting the public financial information to the public finance website in accordance
with rules made under Subsection (9).
- 670 (6) The content of the public financial information posted to the public finance website is the
responsibility of the qualifying entity posting the public financial information.
- 672 (7) A URS-participating employer shall provide employee compensation information for each fiscal
year ending on or after June 30, 2022:
- 674 (a) to the state auditor for posting on the Utah Public Finance Website; or
- 675 (b)
- . (i) through the URS-participating employer's own website; and
- 676 (ii) via a link to the website described in Subsection (7)(b)(i), submitted to the state auditor for posting
on the Utah Public Finance Website.
- 678 (8)

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- . (a) A qualifying entity may not post financial information that is classified as private, controlled, or protected under Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act, to the public finance website.
- 681 (b) An individual who negligently discloses financial information that is classified as private, protected, or controlled by Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act, is not criminally or civilly liable for an improper disclosure of the financial information if the financial information is disclosed solely as a result of the preparation or publication of the website.
- 686 (9) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the Office of the State Auditor:
- 688 (a) shall make rules to:
- 689 (i) establish which records a qualifying entity is required to post to the public finance website; and
- 691 (ii) establish procedures for obtaining, submitting, reporting, storing, and posting public financial information on the public finance website; and
- 693 (b) may make rules:
- 694 (i) governing when a qualifying entity is required to disclose an expenditure made by a person under contract with the qualifying entity, including the form and content of the disclosure[-] ; and
- 697 (ii) allowing for the inclusion of financial data provided by a participating local entity to be included on the Utah Public Finance Website in a uniform manner.
- 699 (10) The rules made under Subsection (9) shall only require a URS-participating employer to provide employee compensation information for each fiscal year ending on or after June 30, 2022:
- 702 (a) to the state auditor for posting on the public finance website; or
- 703 (b)
- . (i) through the URS-participating employer's own website; and
- 704 (ii) via a link to the website described in Subsection (10)(b)(i), submitted to the state auditor for posting on the public finance website.
- 728 Section 10. Section **79-7-203** is amended to read:
- 729 **79-7-203. (Effective 07/01/25)Powers and duties of division.**
- 708 (1) As used in this section, "real property" includes land under water, upland, and all other property commonly or legally defined as real property.
- 710

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- (2) The Division of Wildlife Resources shall retain the power and jurisdiction conferred upon the Division of Wildlife Resources by law on property controlled by the division with reference to fish and game.
- 713 (3) For purposes of property controlled by the division, the division shall permit multiple uses of the property for purposes such as grazing, fishing, hunting, camping, mining, and the development and use of water and other natural resources.
- 716 (4)
- . (a) The division may acquire real and personal property in the name of the state by legal and proper means, including purchase, gift, devise, eminent domain, lease, exchange, or otherwise, subject to the approval of the executive director and the governor.
- 720 (b) In acquiring real or personal property, the credit of the state may not be pledged without the consent of the Legislature.
- 722 (5)
- . (a) Before acquiring any real property, the division shall notify the county legislative body of the county where the property is situated of the division's intention to acquire the property.
- 725 (b) If the county legislative body requests a hearing within 10 days of receipt of the notice, the division shall hold a public hearing in the county concerning the matter.
- 727 (6) Acceptance of gifts or devises of land or other property is at the discretion of the division, subject to the approval of the executive director and the governor.
- 729 (7) The division shall acquire property by eminent domain in the manner authorized by Title 78B, Chapter 6, Part 5, Eminent Domain.
- 731 (8)
- . (a) The division may make charges for special services and use of facilities, the income from which is available for recreation purposes.
- 733 (b) The division may conduct and operate those services necessary for the comfort and convenience of the public.
- 735 (9)
- . (a) The division may lease or rent concessions of lawful kinds and nature on property to persons, partnerships, and corporations for a valuable consideration after notifying the commission.
- 738 (b) The division shall comply with Title 63G, Chapter 6a, Utah Procurement Code, in selecting concessionaires.

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- 740 (10) The division shall proceed without delay to negotiate with the federal government concerning the
Weber Basin and other recreation and reclamation projects.
- 742 (11)
- . (a) The division shall coordinate with and annually report to the following regarding land acquisition
and development and grants administered under this chapter or Chapter 8, Outdoor Recreation
Grants:
- 745 (i) the Division of State Parks; and
- 746 (ii) the Office of Rural Development.
- 747 (b) The report required under Subsection (11)(a) shall be in writing, made public, and include a
description and the amount of any grant awarded under this chapter or Chapter 8, Outdoor
Recreation Grants.
- 750 (12) The division shall:
- 751 (a) coordinate outdoor recreation policy, management, and promotion:
- 752 (i) among state and federal agencies and local government entities in the state;
- 753 (ii) with the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office created in Section 63L-11-201, if public land is
involved; and
- 755 (iii) on at least a quarterly basis, with the executive director and the executive director of the Governor's
Office of Economic Opportunity;
- 757 (b) in cooperation with the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, promote economic
development in the state by:
- 759 (i) coordinating with outdoor recreation stakeholders;
- 760 (ii) improving recreational opportunities; and
- 761 (iii) recruiting outdoor recreation business;
- 762 (c) administer Chapter 9, Mitigating the Direct Impacts of Tourism and Outdoor Recreation;
- 764 (d) promote all forms of outdoor recreation, including motorized and nonmotorized outdoor recreation;
- 766 [~~(d)~~] (e) recommend to the governor and Legislature policies and initiatives to enhance recreational
amenities and experiences in the state and help implement those policies and initiatives;
- 769 [~~(e)~~] (f) in performing the division's duties, seek to ensure safe and adequate access to outdoor
recreation for all user groups and for all forms of recreation;
- 771 [~~(f)~~] (g) develop data regarding the impacts of outdoor recreation in the state; and
- 772 [~~(g)~~] (h) promote the health and social benefits of outdoor recreation, especially to young people.

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- 774 (13) By following Title 63J, Chapter 5, Federal Funds Procedures Act, the division may:
- 775 (a) seek federal grants or loans;
- 776 (b) seek to participate in federal programs; and
- 777 (c) in accordance with applicable federal program guidelines, administer federally funded outdoor recreation programs.

801 Section 11. Section 11 is enacted to read:

780 CHAPTER 9. MITIGATING THE DIRECT IMPACTS

OF TOURISM AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

782 Part 1. General Provisions

805 **79-9-101. (Effective 07/01/25)Definitions.**

As used in this part:

- 807 (1) "Board" means the Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Board created in Section 79-9-104.
- 785 ~~{(1)}~~ (2) "Division" means the Division of Outdoor Recreation created in Section 79-9-201.
- 809 (3) "Eligible county" means a county:
- 786 ~~{(2)}~~ (a) {"Eligible county" means a county} of the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth class{-}; and
- 811 (b) that imposes the maximum allowable rate of a county transient room tax.
- 787 ~~{(3)}~~ (4) "Grant" means an outdoor recreation mitigation grant issued by the division to an eligible county as described in Section 79-9-201.
- 789 ~~{(4)}~~ (5) "Grantee" means an eligible county {~~or eligible municipality~~} that receives an outdoor recreation mitigation grant from the division.
- 791 ~~{(5)}~~ (6)
- . (a) ~~{"Tourism-related"}~~ "Visitor-related emergency costs" means the documented expenditures of an eligible county in conducting search and rescue efforts or providing emergency medical services in direct relation to an individual who is in the eligible county for the purpose of outdoor recreation, tourism, or a convention.
- 795 (b) ~~{"Tourism-related"}~~ "Visitor-related emergency costs" may include road repair and upgrade costs, as {~~included~~} described in Subsection 17-31-2(3)(d), so long as the eligible county applying for a grant presents sufficient evidence to suggest that the condition of roads in the eligible county {~~have~~} has a direct impact on search and rescue efforts or providing emergency medical services in

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relation to an individual who is in the eligible county for the purpose of outdoor recreation, tourism, or a convention.

- 801 ~~{(6)}~~ (7) ~~{"Tourism-related"}~~ "Visitor-related safety costs" means a mitigation cost described in Subsection 17-31-2(3)(d) that is not a ~~{tourism-related}~~ visitor-related emergency cost, so long as the eligible county applying for a grant presents sufficient evidence to suggest that:
- 804 (a) the eligible county's current solid waste disposal operations are overwhelmed by outdoor recreation, tourism {or recreation} , or conventions in the eligible county, resulting in unsanitary or unsafe conditions in the eligible county;
- 807 (b) law enforcement activities within the eligible county are strained as a direct result of outdoor recreation, tourism {or recreation} , or conventions in the eligible county, resulting in unsafe conditions for ~~{tourists}~~ recreators, {recreators} visitors, tourists, county residents, and members of law enforcement within the eligible county; or
- 811 (c) road repair and upgrade costs, if the current condition of roads in the eligible county are overwhelmed by outdoor recreation, tourism {or recreation} , or conventions in the eligible county, resulting in unsafe conditions in the eligible county.

839 Section 12. Section 12 is enacted to read:

840 **79-9-102. (Effective 07/01/25)Outdoor recreation mitigation grants authorized --**

Rulemaking.

- 816 (1) To the extent that money is available, the division shall administer an outdoor recreation mitigation grants program to address ~~{tourism-related}~~ visitor-related emergency costs and ~~{tourism-related}~~ visitor-related safety costs in eligible counties.
- 819 (2) The purpose of the outdoor recreation mitigation grants program is to:
- 820 (a) assist an eligible county that is impacted by ~~{tourism}~~ outdoor recreation, tourism, or {recreation} conventions to such a degree that the eligible county is unable to address ~~{tourism-related}~~ visitor-related emergency costs or ~~{tourism-related}~~ visitor-related safety costs ~~{resources}~~ within revenue generated by an eligible county's imposition of a transient room tax ~~{revenue}~~ ; and
- 824 (b) over time, ensure that an eligible county impacted by ~~{tourism}~~ outdoor recreation, tourism, or {recreation} conventions is able to manage the impacts of ~~{tourism}~~ outdoor recreation, tourism, or {recreation} conventions within eligible county ~~{resources}~~ revenue generated by the eligible county's imposition of a transient room tax.

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(3) The division shall, **in consultation with the board**, make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, as necessary to perform the division's duties described in this chapter.

857 Section 13. Section **13** is enacted to read:

858 **79-9-103. (Effective 07/01/25) Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Grant Fund created.**

832 (1) There is created an expendable special revenue fund known as the "Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Grant Fund," which the division may use to make competitive outdoor recreation mitigation grants to one or more eligible counties as described in Section 79-9-201.

836 (2) The fund consists of:

837 (a) deposits into the fund under Subsection 59-28-103(4)(a);

838 (b) appropriations made by the Legislature;

839 (c) private donations, grants, gifts, bequests, or money made available from any other source to implement this **{part}** chapter;

841 (d) any grant funding that is returned to the division from an eligible county, as described in Section 79-9-203; and

843 (e) interest earned on the fund.

844 (3) The division shall, **with the advice of the board**, administer the fund.

873 **(4) The cost of administering the fund:**

845 ~~{(4)}~~ (a) ~~{The cost of administering the fund}~~ shall be paid from money in the fund~~{-}~~; and

875 **(b) may not exceed 3% of the revenue deposited annually into the fund under Subsection 59-28-103(4) (a).**

846 (5) Interest accrued from investment of money in the fund shall remain in the fund.

878 Section 14. Section **14** is enacted to read:

879 **79-9-104. Outdoor recreation mitigation board.**

880 (1) There is created the Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Board consisting of the following five members:

882 (a) the managing director of the Utah Office of Tourism, or the managing director's designee;

884 (b) two representatives of the Utah Association of Counties, appointed by the Utah Association of Counties;

886 (c) one representative of the Utah Sheriffs' Association, appointed by the Utah Sheriffs' Association; and

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- (d) the executive director of an organization representing the tourism industry, appointed by the director of the division.
- 890 (2) The board shall annually select one of the board's members to be the chair of the board.
- 891 (3)
- . (a) If a vacancy occurs in the membership of the board, the member shall be replaced in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.
- 893 (b) A member of the board shall serve a term of four years and until the member's successor is appointed and qualified.
- 895 (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (3)(b), the initial appointment of one member described in Subsection (1)(b) and one member described in Subsection (1)(c) shall be two years so the terms of board members are staggered and approximately half of the board members are appointed every two years.
- 899 (d) An individual may be appointed to more than one term.
- 900 (e) Three board members constitutes a quorum.
- 901 (f) The action of a majority of a quorum constitutes action of the board.
- 902 (4) A board member may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service on the board, but may receive per diem and reimbursement for travel expenses incurred as a board member at the rates established by the Division of Finance under:
- 905 (a) Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107; and
- 906 (b) rules made by the Division of Finance pursuant to Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107.
- 908 (5) The division shall provide staff support to the board.

909 Section 15. Section 15 is enacted to read:

848

Part 2. Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Grants

911 **79-9-201. (Effective 07/01/25)Outdoor recreation mitigation grant criteria -- Priorities -- Application -- Prohibition on awards.**

- 851 (1) The division may, within available funding, award an outdoor recreation mitigation grant as described in this section.
- 853 (2) In the event the division receives grant applications in excess of funding available to make grants, the division shall:
- 855 (a) prioritize applications for grant funding for {~~tourism-related~~} visitor-related emergency costs over applications for grant funding for {~~tourism-related~~} visitor-related safety costs;

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- (b) within applications for grant funding to relieve ~~{tourism-related}~~ visitor-related emergency costs, prioritize applications for grant funding to support search and rescue efforts or emergency medical services over applications for grant funding to support road repair; and
- 861 (c) prioritize an application for grant funding from an eligible county with a smaller population over an application for grant funding from an eligible county with a larger population.
- 864 ~~{(3) {After making the priority determinations described in Subsection (2), the division may prioritize available grant funding based on:}}~~
- 866 {(a)} (3) After making the priority determinations described in Subsection (2), the division may prioritize available grant funding based on need, in terms of:
- 867 {(i)} (a) the amount of outdoor recreation or tourism ~~{or recreation}~~ taking place within the eligible county;
- 868 {(ii)} (b) the existing capacity of an eligible county to manage search and rescue efforts or emergency medical services without additional financial assistance;
- 870 {(iii)} (c) the existing capacity of an eligible county to engage in road repair and maintenance without additional financial assistance; and
- 872 {(iv)} (d) the existing capacity of an eligible county to manage tourism-related safety costs without additional financial assistance~~{; and}~~.
- 874 ~~{(b) {demonstrated ability to match state funding with local funding.}}~~
- 875 (4) ~~The ~~{department}~~ division may, in the ~~{department's}~~ division's discretion and in accordance with this part and any rules made pursuant to Subsection 79-9-102(3), fulfill an eligible county's application for grant funding in whole or in part.~~
- 878 (5) In implementing a competitive grant-making program described in this section, the division shall:
- 880 (a) create an application for eligible counties to apply for grant funding; and
- 881 (b) require an eligible county applying for grant funding to:
- 882 (i) use the application created by the division;
- 883 (ii) include information the division requires in an application; and
- 884 (iii) apply by a deadline established by the division.
- 885 (6) ~~{On or before December 31, 2027, If an eligible county ~~{may not receive}~~ intends to share some or all grant funding ~~{described in}~~ awarded to the eligible county under this ~~{chapter unless}~~ section with a special district in the eligible county ~~{has submitted}~~ , the ~~{report required by~~~~

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~~Subsection 17-31-5.5(1)(b)~~ eligible county shall provide that information in the eligible county's application for grant funding.

888 (7) Beginning January 1, 2028, an eligible county may not receive grant funding described in this chapter if~~{:~~ the state auditor notifies the division that the eligible county is not in compliance with Section 17-36-37.

890 ~~{(a) {the eligible county has not submitted the report required by Subsection 17-31-5.5(1)(b);}~~

892 ~~{(b) {the division determines that the eligible county's report required by Subsection 17-31-5.5(1)(b) does not sufficiently comply with the requirements of Subsection 17-31-5.5(2); or}~~

895 ~~{(c) {the state auditor has notified the division and board that the eligible county is not in compliance with Section 17-36-37.}}~~

951 Section 16. Section **16** is enacted to read:

952 **79-9-202. (Effective 07/01/25) Determining need of eligible counties.**

899 (1) The division shall annually determine the relative needs of eligible counties for financial assistance to support ~~{tourism-related}~~ visitor-related emergency costs in eligible counties, specifically taking into account the rolling five-year average of past ~~{tourism-related}~~ visitor-related emergency costs within each eligible county, based on available data.

903 (2) The division may request assistance from the state auditor and the Utah Office of Tourism ~~{within the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity and the state auditor}~~ in making the determination described in Subsection (1).

959 Section 17. Section **17** is enacted to read:

960 **79-9-203. (Effective 07/01/25) Use of outdoor recreation mitigation grant funding.**

908 (1) An eligible county that receives grant funding under Section 79-9-201:

909 (a) shall use grant funding:

910 (i) to pay for any present or ongoing ~~{tourism-related}~~ visitor-related emergency costs or ~~{tourism-related}~~ visitor-related safety costs;

912 (ii) to reimburse a provider of search and rescue efforts or emergency medical services for any past, unpaid services within the eligible county; ~~{and}~~

968 (iii) to support the activities of a special district providing search and rescue efforts, emergency medical services, solid waste disposal, or road repair;

914 ~~{(iii)}~~ (iv) as proposed in the eligible county's or eligible special district's application for grant funding;

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(b) shall report to the division on the expenditures made with the grant funding by December 31 of each year in which grant funding is received or is unexpended;

917 (c) may not use grant funding to:

918 (i) supplant existing funds; or

919 (ii) purchase real property or make payments toward the ownership or leasing of real property.

921 (2) If a grantee does not expend or encumber the funding within 18 months of the day on which the funding was received by the grantee due to a lack of need within the eligible county, the grantee:

924 (a) shall inform the division regarding the remaining grant funding;

925 (b) may retain the remaining grant funding until fully expended unless required by the division to return the remaining grant funding to the division; and

927 (c) may not apply for a new outdoor recreation mitigation grant until the grant funding is fully expended or returned.

929 (3) Upon receipt of unexpended outdoor recreation mitigation grant funding from a grantee, the division shall deposit the unexpended grant funding into the Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Grant Fund created in Section 79-9-103.

989 Section 18. Section **18** is enacted to read:

933

Part 3. Reporting

991 **79-9-301. (Effective 07/01/25)Reporting.**

~~{Beginning January 1, 2027, the }~~ The division shall ~~{provide an annual written }~~ report quarterly to the board on:

993 (a) grant applications received from eligible counties;

994 (b) grant awards made to eligible counties; and

995 (c) the division's progress in determining the relative needs of eligible counties, as described in Section 79-9-202.

Beginning January 1, 2027, the division and board shall provide an annual written report to the Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee and the Political Subdivisions Interim Committee no later than September 30, describing the division's efforts to implement the requirements of this chapter and any recommendations for legislative changes to the grant program described in this part.

~~{no later than September 30, describing the division's efforts to implement the requirements of this chapter and any recommendations for legislative changes to the program.}~~

1002 Section 19. **Effective date.**

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~~{This}~~ Except as provided in Subsection (2), this bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

1004 (2) The actions affecting the following sections take effect on January 1, 2026:

1005 (a) Section 59-28-102Effective 01/01/26; and

1006 (b) Section 59-28-103Effective 01/01/26.

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