

HB0209S02 compared with HB0209S01

{Omitted text} shows text that was in HB0209S01 but was omitted in HB0209S02

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0209S01 but was inserted into HB0209S02

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Homeschool Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Nicholeen P. Peck

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to home school affidavits.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ clarifies when a letter of intent to homeschool is required from parents;
- ▶ removes the requirement for parents to submit an affidavit for students who begin homeschooling at the start of an academic year;
- ▶ removes the requirement for parents to attest to criminal background history;
- ▶ establishes procedures for local school boards to process letters of intent;
- ▶ removes liability from local school boards after student unenrollment; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

None

AMENDS:

HB0209S01

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21 **53G-6-204** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 113, 386 , as last amended by Laws
22 of Utah 2024, Chapters 113, 386

22

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

24 Section 1. Section **53G-6-204** is amended to read:

25 **53G-6-204. School-age children exempt from school attendance.**

26 (1)

. (a) A local school board or charter school governing board may excuse a school-age child from
attendance for any of the following reasons:

28 (i) a school-age child over 16 years old may receive a partial release from school to enter
employment, or attend a trade school, if the school-age child has completed grade 8; or

31 (ii) on an annual basis, a school-age child may receive a full release from attending a public,
regularly established private, or part-time school or class if:

33 (A) the school-age child has already completed the work required for graduation from high school;

35 (B) the school-age child is in a physical or mental condition, certified by a competent physician or
physician assistant if required by the local school board or charter school governing board, which
renders attendance inexpedient and impracticable;

39 (C) proper influences and adequate opportunities for education are provided in connection with the
school-age child's employment; or

41 (D) the district superintendent or charter school governing board has determined that a school-age child
over 16 years old is unable to profit from attendance at school because of inability or a continuing
negative attitude toward school regulations and discipline.

45 (b) A school-age child receiving a partial release from school under Subsection (1)(a)(i) is required to
attend:

47 (i) school part time as prescribed by the local school board or charter school governing board; or

49 (ii) a home school part time.

50 (c) In each case, evidence of reasons for granting an exemption under Subsection (1) must be sufficient
to satisfy the local school board or charter school governing board.

52 (d) A local school board or charter school governing board that excuses a school-age child from
attendance as provided by this Subsection (1) shall issue a certificate that the child is excused from
attendance during the time specified on the certificate.

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55 [(2)

. (a)

. (i) ~~As used in this Subsection (2)(a), "child abuse" means a criminal felony or attempted felony offense of which an individual is convicted, or to which an individual pleads guilty or no contest, for conduct that constitutes any of the following:]~~

59 [(A) child abuse under Section 76-5-109;]

60 [(B) aggravated child abuse under Section 76-5-109.2;]

61 [(C) child abandonment under Section 76-5-109.3;]

62 [(D) commission of domestic violence in the presence of a child under Section 76-5-114;]

64 [(E) child abuse homicide under Section 76-5-208;]

65 [(F) child kidnapping under Section 76-5-301.1;]

66 [(G) human trafficking of a child under Section 76-5-308.5;]

67 [(H) an offense described in Title 76, Chapter 5, Part 4, Sexual Offenses, or in Title 76, Chapter 5b, Part 2, Sexual Exploitation, if the victim is under 18 years old;]

70 [(I) sexual exploitation of a minor under Section 76-5b-201;]

71 [(J) aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor under Section 76-5b-201.1; or]

72 [(K) an offense in another state that, if committed in this state, would constitute an offense described in this Subsection (2)(a)(i).]

74 [(ii) ~~Except as provided in Subsection (2)(a)(iii), a local school board shall excuse a school-age child from attendance, if the school-age child's parent or legal guardian files a signed affidavit with the school-age child's school district of residence, as defined in Section 53G-6-302, that:]~~

78 [(A) ~~the school-age child will attend a home school; and]~~

79 [(B) ~~the parent or legal guardian assumes sole responsibility for the education of the school-age child, except to the extent the school-age child is dual enrolled in a public school as provided in Section 53G-6-702.]~~

82 [(iii) ~~If a parent or legal guardian has been convicted of child abuse or if a court of competent jurisdiction has made a substantiated finding of child abuse against the parent or legal guardian:]~~

85 [(A) ~~the parent or legal guardian may not assume responsibility for the education of a school-age child under Subsection (2)(a)(ii); and]~~

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- [~~(B) the local school board may not accept the affidavit described in Subsection (2)(a)(ii) from the parent or legal guardian or otherwise exempt the school-age child from attendance under Subsection (2)(a)(ii) in relation to the parent's or legal guardian's intent to home school the child.~~]
- 91 [~~(iv) Nothing in this Subsection (2)(a) affects the ability of another of a child's parents or legal guardians who is not prohibited under Subsection (2)(a)(iii) to file the affidavit described in Subsection (2)(a)(ii).~~]
- 94 [~~(b) A signed affidavit filed in accordance with Subsection (2)(a) shall remain in effect as long as:~~]
- 96 [~~(i) the school-age child attends a home school;~~]
- 97 [~~(ii) the school district where the affidavit was filed remains the school-age child's district of residence; and]~~]
- 99 [~~(iii) the parent or legal guardian who filed the signed affidavit has not been convicted of child abuse or been the subject of a substantiated finding of child abuse by a court of competent jurisdiction.~~]
- 102 [~~(c) A parent or legal guardian of a school-age child who attends a home school is solely responsible for:~~]
- 104 [~~(i) the selection of instructional materials and textbooks;~~]
- 105 [~~(ii) the time, place, and method of instruction; and]~~]
- 106 [~~(iii) the evaluation of the home school instruction.~~]
- 107 [~~(d) A local school board may not:~~]
- 108 [~~(i) require a parent or legal guardian of a school-age child who attends a home school to maintain records of instruction or attendance;~~]
- 110 [~~(ii) require credentials for individuals providing home school instruction;~~]
- 111 [~~(iii) inspect home school facilities; or]~~]
- 112 [~~(iv) require standardized or other testing of home school students.~~]
- 113 [~~(e) Upon the request of a parent or legal guardian, a local school board shall identify the knowledge, skills, and competencies a student is recommended to attain by grade level and subject area to assist the parent or legal guardian in achieving college and career readiness through home schooling.~~]
- 117 [~~(f) A local school board that excuses a school-age child from attendance under this Subsection (2) shall annually issue a certificate stating that the school-age child is excused from attendance for the specified school year.~~]
- 120 [~~(g) A local school board shall issue a certificate excusing a school-age child from attendance:~~]
- 122

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- [(i) within 30 days after receipt of a signed affidavit filed by the school-age child's parent or legal guardian under this Subsection (2); and]
- 124 [(ii) on or before August 1 each year thereafter unless:]
- 125 [(A) the school-age child enrolls in a school within the school district;]
- 126 [(B) the school-age child's parent or legal guardian notifies the school district that the school-age child no longer attends a home school; or]
- 128 [(C) the school-age child's parent or legal guardian notifies the school district that the school-age child's school district of residence has changed.]
- 130 [(3) A parent or legal guardian who is eligible to file and files a signed affidavit under Subsection (2)(a) is exempt from the application of Subsections 53G-6-202(2), (5), and (6).]
- 133 (2)
- . (a) A parent or legal guardian of a school-age child who attends a home school is solely responsible for:
- 135 (i) the selection of instructional materials and textbooks;
- 136 (ii) the time, place, and method of instruction; and
- 137 (iii) the evaluation of the home school instruction.
- 138 (b) A local school board may not:
- 139 (i) require a parent or legal guardian of a school-age child who attends a home school to maintain records of instruction or attendance;
- 141 (ii) require credentials for individuals providing home school instruction;
- 142 (iii) inspect home school facilities; or
- 143 (iv) require standardized or other testing of home school students.
- 144 (c) Upon the request of a parent or legal guardian, a local school board shall identify the knowledge, skills, and competencies a student is recommended to attain by grade level and subject area to assist the parent or legal guardian in achieving college and career readiness through home schooling.
- 133 ~~{(2)}~~ (3) When a parent {requests to withdraw} withdraws an enrolled school-age child from school for the purpose of home-schooling, the parent shall submit a letter of intent to home school to the local school board of the school-age child's district of residence regardless of which LEA the school-age child is enrolled with at the time.
- 137 ~~{(3)}~~ (4) A local school board may not require a letter of intent for a school-age child that is not enrolled in public education at the beginning of an academic school year, including a school-age child who is dual enrolled as described in Section 53G-6-702.

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- 140 ~~{(4)}~~ (5) Upon receiving a letter of intent to home school, the local school board shall:
- 141 (a) maintain a record of the letter of intent; and
- 142 (b) acknowledge receipt of the letter to the parent within 30 days.
- 143 ~~{(5)}~~ (6) Upon receipt of a letter of intent to home school and the school-age child's unenrollment, the local school board and school of enrollment are not liable for the education~~{,}~~ or services~~{, or~~ welfare} of the school-age child.
- 146 [(4)] ~~{(6)}~~ (7)
- . (a) Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit or discourage voluntary cooperation, resource sharing, or testing opportunities between a school or school district and a parent or legal guardian of a child attending a home school.
- 149 (b) The exemptions in this section apply regardless of whether:
- 150 (i) a parent or legal guardian provides education instruction to the parent's or legal guardian's child alone or in cooperation with other parents or legal guardians similarly exempted under this section; or
- 153 (ii) the parent or legal guardian makes payment for educational services the parent's or legal guardian's child receives.
- 170 Section 2. **Effective date.**
This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.

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