

State Campgrounds Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Steve Eliason

LONG TITLE**Committee Note:**

The Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 15 voting for 0 voting against 4 absent

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

32 **79-4-1301 . Definitions.**33 As used in this part:34 (1) "Application" means a written application that a person submits to the division to
35 nominate a parcel of state land or an existing campground located on state land for
36 designation as a state campground.37 (2)(a) "Campground" means real property made available to individuals for camping,
38 whether camping by tent, trailer, camper, cabin, recreational vehicle, or similar
39 equipment.40 (b) "Campground" includes the outdoor recreational infrastructure, as that term is
41 defined in Section 51-9-901, located on the real property.42 (3) "Committee" means:43 (a) the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee if the
44 Legislature is not in session; or45 (b) the House or Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Standing
46 Committee if the Legislature is in session.47 (4) "State campground" means a campground:48 (a) located on state land;49 (b) confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the
50 campground; and51 (c) designated in accordance with this part.52 (5) "State land" means land owned or managed by the state.53 Section 2. Section **79-4-1302** is enacted to read:54 **79-4-1302 . Application for state campground -- Rulemaking -- Division duties --**
55 **Committee duties.**56 (1) The division may make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
57 Administrative Rulemaking Act:58 (a) to establish the process for the submission of an application; and59 (b) for the administration of a state campground, subject to valid existing rights and
60 Section 79-4-1304.61 (2) When the division receives a completed application, the division shall:62 (a) evaluate the application;63 (b) submit the completed application and the results of the division's evaluation
64 described in Subsection (2)(a) to the following entities or individuals for review, as
65 applicable:

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

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

96 **79-4-1303 . Designation.**

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

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

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

102 **79-4-1304 . Management.**

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

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

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

110 Section 5. **Effective date.**

111 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.