

Energy Education Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Colin W. Jack

Senate Sponsor: Derrin R. Owens

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill modifies provisions related to the Office of Energy Development.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- requires the Office of Energy Development (office) to:
 - develop and maintain energy education programs and curricula for grades K-12;
 - develop and provide professional development training for educators;
 - develop energy related workforce development programs; and
 - establish the Energy Education and Workforce Development Task Force;
- outlines the responsibilities and duties of the task force; and
- requires the office to report annually to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology

Interim Committee.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

79-6-409, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **79-6-409** is enacted to read:

**79-6-409 . Energy Education and Workforce Development Task Force
established -- Energy education and workforce development programs.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Core standards" means the science standards established by the state board as

- 31 described in Section 53E-4-202.
- 32 (b) "Institution of higher education" means the same as that term is defined in Section
33 53B-1-102.
- 34 (c) "Task force" means the Energy Education and Workforce Development Task Force
35 created in this section.
- 36 (2) Pursuant to Subection 79-6-301(1)(h) and subject to legislative appropriations and other
37 funding sources, the office shall establish the Energy Education and Workforce
38 Development Task Force consisting of the following:
- 39 (a) the director of the office, or the director's designee;
- 40 (b) the director of the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, or the director's designee;
- 41 (c) the state superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee from
42 the State Board of Education Elementary Science Team;
- 43 (d) the state superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee from
44 the State Board of Education Secondary Science Team;
- 45 (e) the commissioner of higher education, or the commissioner's designee from Talent
46 Ready Utah;
- 47 (f) the president of the Utah Rural Schools Association, or the president's designee;
- 48 (g) the president of the Utah Science Teaching Association, or the president's designee;
- 49 (h) the chief executive officer of the Utah Municipal Power Agency or the Utah
50 Associated Municipal Power Systems, or the chief executive officer's designee;
- 51 (i) the executive director of the Utah Rural Electric Cooperative Association, or the
52 executive director's designee;
- 53 (j) the president of the Utah Petroleum Association, or the president's designee; and
- 54 (k) the president of the Utah Mining Association, or the president's designee.
- 55 (3) In consultation with the task force, the office shall:
- 56 (a) develop and maintain energy education programs and curricula for kindergarten
57 through grade 12 that:
- 58 (i) meet core standards;
- 59 (ii) align with the state energy policy described in Section 79-6-301;
- 60 (iii) are appropriate for each grade level; and
- 61 (iv) are available to school districts, charter schools, and the public for voluntary use;
- 62 (b) develop and provide professional development training for educators that:
- 63 (i) promotes the use and appropriate deployment and teaching of the energy
64 education programs and curricula developed under Subsection (3)(a);

- 65 (ii) builds fluency for educators with the energy education programs and curricula;
66 (iii) provides educators with opportunities and activities to receive renewal hours for
67 professional licensure; and
68 (iv) complies with state educator licensure requirements; and
69 (c) develop energy-related workforce development programs and facilitate collaboration
70 among institutions of higher education, elementary and secondary schools, and
71 industry.
- 72 (4) The office may:
- 73 (a) include in the curricula other elements of the state energy policy to advance a
74 comprehensive understanding of energy policy;
75 (b) contract with third-party curriculum development organizations to create the
76 curricula based on guidance from the office and the advisory committee; and
77 (c) provide comment on the development of Utah science core standards.
- 78 (5) The professional development training provided to educators by the office may include:
- 79 (a) virtual or in-person classroom instruction;
80 (b) conferences;
81 (c) seminars; and
82 (d) site visits.
- 83 (6) An energy-related workforce development program described in Subsection (3)(c) shall:
- 84 (a) create expanded, multidisciplinary programs or stackable credential programs;
85 (b) prepare students for energy industry jobs; and
86 (c) promote policies consistent with the state energy policy described in Section
87 79-6-301.
- 88 (7) The task force's duties may include providing recommendations to the office regarding
89 the development and implementation of:
- 90 (a) energy education programs and curricula in grades kindergarten through grade 12;
91 (b) professional development trainings for educators;
92 (c) energy related workforce development programs; and
93 (d) any potential comments to be submitted on the development of science core
94 standards for Utah public schools for the state.
- 95 (8) On or before October 1 of each year, the office shall submit a written report to the
96 Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee describing activities,
97 successes, challenges, and funding needs related to the programs and training
98 established in this section.

99 Section 2. **Effective date.**

100 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.