

Norman K Thurston proposes the following substitute bill:

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
 - consult with specified stakeholders in developing and implementing these programs;
- specifies required stakeholders for consultation; 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 programs.

(1) As used in this section:

- 29 (a) "Core standards" means the science standards established by the state board as
30 described in Section 53E-4-202.
- 31 (b) "Institution of higher education" means the same as that term is defined in Section
32 53B-1-102.
- 33 (2) To implement the training and education programs described in Subsection
34 79-6-301(1)(h), and subject to legislative appropriations and other funding sources, the
35 office shall:
- 36 (a) develop and maintain energy education programs and curricula for kindergarten
37 through grade 12 that:
- 38 (i) meet core standards;
- 39 (ii) align with the state energy policy described in Section 79-6-301;
- 40 (iii) are appropriate for each grade level; and
- 41 (iv) are available to school districts, charter schools, and the public for voluntary use;
- 42 (b) develop and provide professional development training for educators that:
- 43 (i) promotes the use and appropriate deployment and teaching of the energy
44 education programs and curricula developed under Subsection (2)(a);
- 45 (ii) builds fluency for educators with the energy education programs and curricula;
- 46 (iii) provides educators with opportunities and activities to receive renewal hours for
47 professional licensure; and
- 48 (iv) complies with state educator licensure requirements; and
- 49 (c) develop energy-related workforce development programs and facilitate collaboration
50 among institutions of higher education, elementary and secondary schools, and
51 industry.
- 52 (3) The office shall consult with the following individuals in carrying out the duties
53 described in Subsection (2):
- 54 (a) the director of the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, or the director's designee;
- 55 (b) the state superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee from
56 the State Board of Education Elementary Science Team;
- 57 (c) the state superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee from
58 the State Board of Education Secondary Science Team;
- 59 (d) the commissioner of higher education, or the commissioner's designee from Talent
60 Ready Utah;
- 61 (e) the president of the Utah Rural Schools Association, or the president's designee;
- 62 (f) the president of the Utah Science Teaching Association, or the president's designee;

- 63 (g) the chief executive officer of the Utah Municipal Power Agency or the Utah
64 Associated Municipal Power Systems, or the chief executive officer's designee;
65 (h) the executive director of the Utah Rural Electric Cooperative Association, or the
66 executive director's designee;
67 (i) the president of the Utah Petroleum Association, or the president's designee; and
68 (j) the president of the Utah Mining Association, or the president's designee.
- 69 (4) The office may:
- 70 (a) include in the curricula other elements of the state energy policy to advance a
71 comprehensive understanding of energy policy;
72 (b) contract with third-party curriculum development organizations to create the
73 curricula based on guidance from the office and the advisory committee; and
74 (c) provide comment on the development of Utah science core standards.
- 75 (5) The professional development training provided to educators by the office may include:
- 76 (a) virtual or in-person classroom instruction;
77 (b) conferences;
78 (c) seminars; and
79 (d) site visits.
- 80 (6) An energy-related workforce development program described in Subsection (2)(c) shall:
- 81 (a) create expanded, multidisciplinary programs or stackable credential programs;
82 (b) prepare students for energy industry jobs; and
83 (c) promote policies consistent with the state energy policy described in Section
84 79-6-301.
- 85 (7) On or before October 1 of each year, the office shall submit a written report to the
86 Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee describing activities,
87 successes, challenges, and funding needs related to the programs and training
88 established in this section.

89 Section 2. **Effective date.**

90 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.