

1 **Juvenile Justice Amendments**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Nicholeen P. Peck

Senate Sponsor:

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill amends statutory provisions related to juvenile justice.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

- 8 ▶ defines terms;
- 9 ▶ amends the notification requirements for an offense committed by a student on school

10 grounds;

11 ▶ recodifies and amends requirements related to the notification of an offense committed by

12 a student on school grounds, including statutory provisions addressing investigations,

13 searches, and immunity;

14 ▶ provides that a juvenile probation officer may not offer a minor a nonjudicial adjustment

15 if the minor is 12 years old or older and is referred for a misdemeanor drug offense;

16 ▶ clarifies that a juvenile probation officer may not offer a minor a nonjudicial adjustment if

17 the minor is 12 years old or older and is referred for unlawful adolescent sexual activity;

18 ▶ provides that a court may not grant a petition for expungement of a juvenile record if the

19 petitioner has been adjudicated or convicted of certain drug offenses within two years

20 before the petition for expungement is filed;

- 21 ▶ repeals statutes regarding notification and reporting of prohibited acts by students; and

- 22 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

23 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

24 None

25 **Other Special Clauses:**

26 None

27 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

28 AMENDS:

29 **53G-7-224**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 20

30 **53G-8-510**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 301

31 **80-6-303.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 301

32 **80-6-1004.1**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 115

33 ENACTS:

34 **53G-8-509.1**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

35 **53G-8-511**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36 **53G-8-512**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

37 RENUMBERS AND AMENDS:

38 **53G-8-513**, (Renumbered from 53G-8-509, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019,
39 Chapter 293)

40 REPEALS:

41 **53G-8-501**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 3

42 **53G-8-502**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 3

43 **53G-8-503**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 293

44 **53G-8-504**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 3

45 **53G-8-505**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 161

46 **53G-8-506**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 117 and renumbered and
47 amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 3

48 **53G-8-507**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 3

49 **53G-8-508**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 161

50

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

52 Section 1. Section **53G-7-224** is amended to read:

53 **53G-7-224 . Local education agency communication requirements -- Protection.**

54 (1) As used in this section, "school employee" means the same as that term is defined in
55 Section [53G-8-510] 53G-8-509.1.

56 (2) On or before October 1 of each year, an LEA shall provide the state board with the work
57 email address of each school employee.

58 (3) The state board may email school employees for official communication:

59 (a) if the state board provides 48 hours notice to the local superintendent; and

60 (b) no more than three times per calendar year.

61 (4) The state board:

62 (a) may use an employee's email address provided under Subsection (2) for official
63 communication between the state board and the school employee; and

64 (b) may not disclose an email address provided under Subsection (2) to a third party.

- 65 (5)(a) Upon request, the state board shall provide the email addresses in Subsection (2)
 66 to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 67 (b) The president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives, by
 68 mutual agreement, may jointly email school employees for official communication
 69 on behalf of the Legislature relating to the teaching profession or education policy in
 70 the state:
- 71 (i) if the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives
 72 provide 48 hours notice to the local superintendent; and
- 73 (ii) no more than three times per calendar year.
- 74 (c) The president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives may not:
- 75 (i) use or allow another individual to use a school employee's email address for
 76 political activity or for any purpose other than as described in Subsection (5)(b);
 77 and
- 78 (ii) disclose and email address provided under Subsection (2) to another legislator or
 79 a third party.

80 Section 2. Section **53G-8-509.1** is enacted to read:

81 **Part 5. Notification Requirements for Offenses Committed by Students**

82 **53G-8-509.1 . Definitions for part.**

83 As used in this part:

- 84 (1) "School" means a public or private elementary or secondary school.
- 85 (2) "School employee" means an individual working in the individual's capacity as:
- 86 (a) a school teacher;
- 87 (b) a school staff member;
- 88 (c) a school administrator; or
- 89 (d) an individual:
- 90 (i) who is employed, directly or indirectly, by a school, an LEA governing board, or a
 91 school district; and
- 92 (ii) who works on a school campus.
- 93 (3) "School is in session" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53E-3-516.
- 94 (4) "School-sponsored activity" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53E-3-516.

95 Section 3. Section **53G-8-510** is amended to read:

96 **53G-8-510 . Notification of an offense committed by a minor on school grounds --**

97 **Immunity from civil and criminal liability.**

98 [(1) As used in this section:]

- 99 [(a) "Minor" means the same as that term is defined in Section 80-1-102.]
- 100 [(b) "School-employee" means an individual working in the individual's capacity as:]
- 101 [(i) a school teacher;]
- 102 [(ii) a school staff member;]
- 103 [(iii) a school administrator; or]
- 104 [(iv) an individual:]
- 105 [(A) who is employed, directly or indirectly, by a school, an LEA governing
- 106 board, or a school district; and]
- 107 [(B) who works on a school campus.]
- 108 [(c) "School is in session" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53E-3-516.]
- 109 [(d) "School-sponsored activity" means the same as that term is defined in Section
- 110 53E-3-516.]

111 ~~[(2)]~~ (1) If a ~~[minor]~~ student allegedly commits an offense on school grounds when school is

112 in session or at a school-sponsored activity and that information is reported to, or known

113 by, a school employee, the school employee shall notify the principal.

114 ~~[(3)]~~ (2) After receiving a notification under Subsection ~~[(2)]~~ (1), the principal shall notify:

- 115 (a) a law enforcement officer or agency if the principal may refer the offense to a law
- 116 enforcement officer or agency as described in Section 53G-8-211; ~~[and]~~
- 117 (b) school or district personnel if the principal determines that school or district
- 118 personnel should be informed~~[-]~~ ; and
- 119 (c) the student's legal parent or guardian.

120 (3) The principal may not disclose to the student, or the student's legal parent or guardian,

121 the identity of the school employee who made the initial notification under Subsection

122 (1).

123 (4) The identity of a school employee who notifies a principal under Subsection (1) shall be

124 kept confidential.

125 ~~[(4) A person who in good faith reports information under Subsection (2) or (3) and any~~

126 ~~person who receives the information is immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that~~

127 ~~might otherwise result from the reporting or receipt of the information.]~~

128 Section 4. Section **53G-8-511** is enacted to read:

129 **53G-8-511 . Investigations into allegations -- Searches -- Evidence.**

130 (1) Before a principal notifies a law enforcement officer or agency of an offense under

131 Section 53G-8-510, the principal may investigate, or authorize an investigation, into

132 allegations involving school property, students, or school district employees, including a

- 133 search on school property in accordance with Subsection (2).
- 134 (2)(a) A search on school property must be based on at least a reasonable belief that the
 135 search will turn up evidence of an offense.
- 136 (b) The measures adopted for the search must be reasonably related to the objectives of
 137 the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the circumstances, including the
 138 age and sex of the person involved and the nature of the infraction.
- 139 (3) If an offense involving an electronic cigarette product may not be referred, or is not
 140 referred, to a law enforcement officer or agency under Section 53G-8-211, an LEA shall
 141 dispose of or destroy the seized electronic cigarette product in accordance with the
 142 LEA's policies adopted under Subsection 53G-8-203(3).
- 143 (4) Evidence of an offense on school property is admissible in civil and criminal actions if
 144 the evidence is seized by school authorities acting alone, on their own authority, and not
 145 in conjunction with or at the behest of a law enforcement officer or agency.

146 Section 5. Section **53G-8-512** is enacted to read:

147 **53G-8-512 . Immunity from civil or criminal liability.**

- 148 (1) A school employee or principal who in good faith reports information under Subsection
 149 53G-8-510 (1) or (2) is immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might
 150 otherwise result from the reporting or receipt of the information.
- 151 (2) A school employee, a principal, a school official, a school, or an LEA making a
 152 notification or conducting an investigation, in good faith, under the direction of school
 153 or law enforcement authorities under this part, is immune from any liability, civil or
 154 criminal, that otherwise might result by reason of that action.

155 Section 6. Section **53G-8-513**, which is renumbered from Section 53G-8-509 is renumbered
 156 and amended to read:

157 **[53G-8-509] 53G-8-513 . State board rules to ensure protection of individual**
 158 **rights.**

- 159 (1) The state board and LEA governing boards shall adopt rules [or policies to
 160 implement Sections 53G-8-505 through 53G-8-508] to address the standards and
 161 procedures for students searches under this part.
- 162 (2) The rules or policies shall establish procedures to ensure protection of individual rights
 163 against excessive and unreasonable intrusion.

164 Section 7. Section **80-6-303.5** is amended to read:

165 **80-6-303.5 . Preliminary inquiry by juvenile probation officer -- Eligibility for**
 166 **nonjudicial adjustment.**

- 167 (1) If the juvenile court receives a referral for an offense committed by a minor that is, or
168 appears to be, within the juvenile court's jurisdiction, or for the minor being a habitual
169 truant, a juvenile probation officer shall make a preliminary inquiry in accordance with
170 this section to determine whether the minor is eligible to enter into a nonjudicial
171 adjustment.
- 172 (2) If a minor is referred to the juvenile court for multiple offenses arising from a single
173 criminal episode, and the minor is eligible under this section for a nonjudicial
174 adjustment, the juvenile probation officer shall offer the minor one nonjudicial
175 adjustment for all offenses arising from the single criminal episode.
- 176 (3)(a) The juvenile probation officer may:
- 177 (i) conduct a validated risk and needs assessment; and
 - 178 (ii) request that a prosecuting attorney review a referral in accordance with Section
179 80-6-304.5 if:
 - 180 (A) the results of the validated risk and needs assessment indicate the minor is
181 high risk; or
 - 182 (B) the results of the validated risk and needs assessment indicate the minor is
183 moderate risk and the referral is for a class A misdemeanor violation under
184 Title 76, Chapter 5, Offenses Against the Individual, or Title 76, Chapter 9,
185 Part 7, Miscellaneous Provisions.
- 186 (b) If the referral involves an offense that is a violation of Section 41-6a-502, the minor
187 shall:
- 188 (i) undergo a drug and alcohol screening;
 - 189 (ii) if found appropriate by the screening, participate in an assessment; and
 - 190 (iii) if warranted by the screening and assessment, follow the recommendations of the
191 assessment.
- 192 (4) Except for an offense that is not eligible under Subsection (8), the juvenile probation
193 officer shall offer a nonjudicial adjustment to a minor if:
- 194 (a) the minor:
 - 195 (i) is referred for an offense that is a misdemeanor, infraction, or status offense;
 - 196 (ii) has no more than two prior adjudications; and
 - 197 (iii) has no more than two prior unsuccessful nonjudicial adjustment attempts;
 - 198 (b) the minor is referred for an offense that is alleged to have occurred before the minor
199 was 12 years old; or
 - 200 (c) the minor is referred for being a habitual truant.

- 201 (5) For purposes of determining a minor's eligibility for a nonjudicial adjustment under
202 Subsection (4), the juvenile probation officer shall treat all offenses arising out of a
203 single criminal episode that resulted in a nonjudicial adjustment as one prior nonjudicial
204 adjustment.
- 205 (6) For purposes of determining a minor's eligibility for a nonjudicial adjustment under
206 Subsection (4), the juvenile probation officer shall treat all offenses arising out of a
207 single criminal episode that resulted in one or more prior adjudications as a single
208 adjudication.
- 209 (7) Except for a referral that involves an offense described in Subsection (8), the juvenile
210 probation officer may offer a nonjudicial adjustment to a minor who does not meet the
211 criteria described in Subsection (4)(a).
- 212 (8) The juvenile probation officer may not offer a minor a nonjudicial adjustment if the
213 referral involves:
- 214 (a) an offense alleged to have occurred when the minor was 12 years old or older that is:
- 215 (i) a felony offense; or
- 216 (ii) a misdemeanor violation of:
- 217 (A) Section 41-6a-502, driving under the influence;
- 218 (B) Subsection 58-37-8(1)(a)(ii), distributing a controlled or counterfeit substance,
219 or agreeing, consenting, offering, or arranging to distribute a controlled
220 substance;
- 221 (C) Subsection 58-37-8(1)(a)(iii), possessing a controlled or counterfeit substance
222 with intent to distribute;
- 223 (D) Subsection 58-37-8(2)(a)(i), possessing or using a controlled substance analog
224 or controlled substance;
- 225 [~~(B)~~] (E) Section 76-5-107, threat of violence;
- 226 [~~(C)~~] (F) Section 76-5-107.1, threats against schools;
- 227 [~~(D)~~] (G) Section 76-5-112, reckless endangerment creating a substantial risk of
228 death or serious bodily injury;
- 229 [~~(E)~~] (H) Section 76-5-206, negligent homicide;
- 230 (I) Section 76-5-401.3, unlawful adolescent sexual activity;
- 231 [~~(F)~~] (J) Section 76-9-702.1, sexual battery;
- 232 [~~(G)~~] (K) Section 76-10-505.5, possession of a dangerous weapon, firearm, or
233 short barreled shotgun on or about school premises;
- 234 [~~(H)~~] (L) Section 76-10-506, threatening with or using a dangerous weapon in fight

- 235 or quarrel;
- 236 [(H)] (M) Section 76-10-507, possession of a deadly weapon with criminal intent; or
- 237 [(H)] (N) Section 76-10-509.4, possession of a dangerous weapon by a minor; or
- 238 (b) an offense alleged to have occurred before the minor is 12 years old that is a felony
- 239 violation of:
- 240 (i) Section 76-5-103, aggravated assault resulting in serious bodily injury to another;
- 241 (ii) Section 76-5-202, aggravated murder or attempted aggravated murder;
- 242 (iii) Section 76-5-203, murder or attempted murder;
- 243 (iv) Section 76-5-302, aggravated kidnapping;
- 244 (v) Section 76-5-405, aggravated sexual assault;
- 245 (vi) Section 76-6-103, aggravated arson;
- 246 (vii) Section 76-6-203, aggravated burglary;
- 247 (viii) Section 76-6-302, aggravated robbery; or
- 248 (ix) Section 76-10-508.1, felony discharge of a firearm.
- 249 (9) The juvenile probation officer shall request that a prosecuting attorney review a referral
- 250 if:
- 251 (a) the referral involves an offense described in Subsection (8); or
- 252 (b) the minor has a current suspended order for custody under Section 80-6-711.
- 253 Section 8. Section **80-6-1004.1** is amended to read:
- 254 **80-6-1004.1 . Petition to expunge adjudication -- Hearing and notice -- Waiver --**
- 255 **Order.**
- 256 (1) An individual may petition the juvenile court for an order to expunge the individual's
- 257 juvenile record if:
- 258 (a) the individual was adjudicated for an offense in the juvenile court;
- 259 (b) the individual has reached 18 years old; and
- 260 (c) at least one year has passed from the day on which:
- 261 (i) the juvenile court's continuing jurisdiction was terminated; or
- 262 (ii) if the individual was committed to secure care, the individual was unconditionally
- 263 released from the custody of the division.
- 264 (2) If a petitioner is 18 years old or older and seeks an expungement under Subsection (1),
- 265 the petition shall include a criminal history report obtained from the Bureau of Criminal
- 266 Identification in accordance with Section 53-10-108.
- 267 (3) If the juvenile court finds and states on the record the reason why the waiver is
- 268 appropriate, the juvenile court may waive:

- 269 (a) the age requirement under Subsection (1)(b) for a petition; or
270 (b) the one-year requirement under Subsection (1)(c) for a petition.
- 271 (4)(a) Upon the filing of a petition described in Subsection (1)(a), the juvenile court
272 shall:
- 273 (i) set a date for a hearing; and
274 (ii) at least 30 days before the day on which the hearing on the petition is scheduled,
275 notify the prosecuting attorney and any affected agency identified in the
276 petitioner's juvenile record:
- 277 (A) that the petition has been filed; and
278 (B) of the date of the hearing.
- 279 (b)(i) The juvenile court shall provide a victim with the opportunity to request notice
280 of a petition described in Subsection (1).
- 281 (ii) Upon the victim's request under Subsection (4)(b)(i), the victim shall receive
282 notice of the petition at least 30 days before the day on which the hearing is
283 scheduled if, before the day on which an expungement order is made, the victim,
284 or the victim's next of kin or authorized representative if the victim is a child or an
285 individual who is incapacitated or deceased, submits a written and signed request
286 for notice to the juvenile court in the judicial district in which the offense occurred
287 or judgment is entered.
- 288 (iii) The notice described in Subsection (4)(b)(ii) shall include a copy of the petition
289 and any statutes and rules applicable to the petition.
- 290 (c) At the hearing, the prosecuting attorney, a victim, and any other individual who may
291 have relevant information about the petitioner may testify.
- 292 (d) The juvenile court may waive the hearing for the petition if:
- 293 (i)(A) there is no victim; or
294 (B) if there is a victim, the victim agrees to the waiver; and
295 (ii) the prosecuting attorney agrees to the waiver.
- 296 (5)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (6), the juvenile court may grant a petition
297 described in Subsection (1) and order expungement of the petitioner's juvenile record
298 if the juvenile court finds that the petitioner is rehabilitated to the satisfaction of the
299 court in accordance with Subsection (5)(b).
- 300 (b) In deciding whether to grant a petition described in Subsection (1), the juvenile court
301 shall consider:
- 302 (i) whether expungement of the petitioner's juvenile record is in the best interest of

- 303 the petitioner;
- 304 (ii) the petitioner's response to programs and treatment;
- 305 (iii) the nature and seriousness of the conduct for which the petitioner was
- 306 adjudicated;
- 307 (iv) the petitioner's behavior subsequent to adjudication;
- 308 (v) the petitioner's reason for seeking expungement of the petitioner's juvenile record;
- 309 and
- 310 (vi) if the petitioner is a restricted person under Subsection 76-10-503(1)(a)(iv) or
- 311 (b)(iii):
- 312 (A) whether the offense for which the petitioner is a restricted person was
- 313 committed with a weapon;
- 314 (B) whether expungement of the petitioner's juvenile record poses an unreasonable
- 315 risk to public safety; and
- 316 (C) the amount of time that has passed since the adjudication of the offense for
- 317 which the petitioner is a restricted person.
- 318 (6) The juvenile court may not grant a petition described in Subsection (1) and order
- 319 expungement of the petitioner's juvenile record if:
- 320 (a) the petitioner has been convicted of a violent felony within five years before the day
- 321 on which the petition for expungement is filed;
- 322 (b) the petitioner has been adjudicated or convicted of an offense described in Section
- 323 58-37-8 within two years before the day on which the petition for expungement is
- 324 filed;
- 325 [~~(b)~~] (c) there are delinquency or criminal proceedings pending against the petitioner;
- 326 [~~(e)~~] (d) the petitioner has not satisfied a judgment of restitution entered by the juvenile
- 327 court for an adjudication in the petitioner's juvenile record;
- 328 [~~(d)~~] (e) the petitioner has not satisfied restitution that was a condition of a nonjudicial
- 329 adjustment in the petitioner's juvenile record; or
- 330 [~~(e)~~] (f) the petitioner's juvenile record contains an adjudication for a violation of:
- 331 (i) Section 76-5-202, aggravated murder; or
- 332 (ii) Section 76-5-203, murder.

333 Section 9. **Repealer.**

334 This bill repeals:

335 Section **53G-8-501, Definitions.**

336 Section **53G-8-502, Mandatory reporting of prohibited acts.**

- 337 Section **53G-8-503, Reporting procedure.**
- 338 Section **53G-8-504, Immunity from civil or criminal liability.**
- 339 Section **53G-8-505, Definitions.**
- 340 Section **53G-8-506, Reporting of prohibited acts affecting a school -- Confidentiality.**
- 341 Section **53G-8-507, Immunity from civil or criminal liability.**
- 342 Section **53G-8-508, Admissibility of evidence in civil and criminal actions.**
- 343 Section 10. **Effective Date.**
- 344 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.