

**Water Safety Amendments**  
2025 GENERAL SESSION  
STATE OF UTAH  
**Chief Sponsor: Jen Plumb**

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill enacts provisions related to water safety.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines terms;
- creates a restricted account;
- creates a drowning prevention and water safety grant program for providing swimming lessons to low income children; and
- creates a reporting requirement.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

This bill appropriates \$250,000 in operating and capital budgets for fiscal year 2026, all of which is from the various sources as detailed in this bill.

This bill appropriates \$250,000 in restricted fund and account transfers for fiscal year 2026, all of which is from the General Fund.

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**26B-1-336**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**26B-7-125**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **26B-1-336** is enacted to read:

**26B-1-336 . Drowning Prevention and Water Safety Restricted Account.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Account" means the Drowning Prevention and Water Safety Restricted Account created in this section.

(b) "Program" means the Drowning Prevention and Water Safety Grant Program created

- 32           in Section 26B-7-125.
- 33   (2) There is created within the General Fund a restricted account known as the "Drowning  
 34       Prevention and Water Safety Restricted Account."
- 35   (3) The account shall be funded by:
- 36       (a) appropriations from the Legislature;
- 37       (b) private donations;
- 38       (c) grants; and
- 39       (d) interest earned on money in the account.
- 40   (4)(a) Subject to appropriation and Subsection (4)(b), the department shall use money in  
 41       the account to:
- 42       (i) fund the program; and
- 43       (ii) pay for administrative costs of:
- 44           (A) managing the account; and
- 45           (B) managing the program.
- 46       (b) For each legislative appropriation into the account, the department may not use more  
 47       than 10% of the appropriation amount for managing the account or managing the  
 48       program.
- 49       Section 2. Section **26B-7-125** is enacted to read:
- 50       **26B-7-125 . Drowning Prevention and Water Safety Grant Program.**
- 51   (1) As used in this section:
- 52       (a) "Eligible child" means a child:
- 53           (i) under the age of five years old; and
- 54           (ii) that resides in a household that has a gross family income that does not exceed  
 55           200% of the federal poverty level.
- 56       (b) "Qualified entity" means any of the following that provide swimming instruction:
- 57           (i) a local health department;
- 58           (ii) a nonprofit organization;
- 59           (iii) a local government entity;
- 60           (iv) a tribal government;
- 61           (v) a school district; or
- 62           (vi) a private organization.
- 63       (c) "Swimming instruction" means formal swimming lessons that:
- 64           (i) are taught by a certified water safety instructor; and
- 65           (ii) follow a structured curriculum focused on teaching swimming skills and water

- 66 safety.
- 67 (2) There is created within the department the Drowning Prevention and Water Safety  
68 Grant Program.
- 69 (3) Subject to legislative appropriations, the department shall:
- 70 (a) establish a competitive grant process to award grants to qualified entities that provide  
71 swimming instruction to an eligible child;
- 72 (b) establish criteria for evaluating grant applications, including:
- 73 (i) demonstrated need within the community to be served;  
74 (ii) qualifications and experience of the qualified entity; and  
75 (iii) proposed budget and cost-effectiveness of the swimming instruction; and
- 76 (c) establish reporting requirements for grant recipients.
- 77 (4) A qualified entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant money only  
78 for paying the fees associated with providing swimming instruction to an eligible child.
- 79 (5) The department shall:
- 80 (a) collect data on program outcomes and impact;
- 81 (b) before November 1 of each year, submit a report to the Health and Human Services  
82 Interim Committee that includes:
- 83 (i) the number of swimming instruction grants awarded;  
84 (ii) the number of eligible children whose fees were paid by grant money;  
85 (iii) the geographic distribution of funded programs;  
86 (iv) program outcomes and effectiveness; and  
87 (v) recommendations for improving water safety in the state.
- 88 (6) The department may seek additional funding through:
- 89 (a) federal grants;  
90 (b) private donations; or  
91 (c) other public or private sources.
- 92 (7) The department shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah  
93 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to establish:
- 94 (a) grant application procedures;  
95 (b) funding priorities;  
96 (c) eligibility criteria;  
97 (d) reporting requirements;  
98 (e) fund distribution methods; and  
99 (f) program evaluation metrics.

100 Section 3. **FY 2026 Appropriation.**

101 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
 102 2025, and ending June 30, 2026. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for  
 103 fiscal year 2026.

104 Subsection 3(a). **Operating and Capital Budgets**

105 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the  
 106 Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts indicated for  
 107 the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

108 ITEM 1 To Department of Health and Human Services - Public Health, Prevention, and  
 109 Epidemiology

110	From General Fund Restricted - Drowning Prevention	
111	and Water Safety Restricted Account, One-time	250,000
112	Schedule of Programs:	
113	Drowning Prevention and Water Safety	250,000

114 Subsection 3(b). **Restricted Fund and Account Transfers**

115 The Legislature authorizes the State Division of Finance to transfer the following  
 116 amounts between the following funds or accounts as indicated. Expenditures and outlays from  
 117 the funds to which the money is transferred must be authorized by an appropriation.

118 ITEM 2 To Drowning Prevention and Water Safety Restricted Account

119	From General Fund, One-time	250,000
120	Schedule of Programs:	
121	Drowning Prevention and Water Safety	
122	Restricted Account	250,000

123 Section 4. **Effective Date.**

124 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.