

Candice B. Pierucci proposes the following substitute bill:

**School Discipline Amendments**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Luz Escamilla**

House Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill regulates the use of emergency safety interventions on a student in a school.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- consolidates and clarifies existing school physical intervention provisions into a single section of code;

- requires the State Board of Education to establish administrative rules for physical intervention in schools;

- establishes standards for use of physical restraint in schools;

- defines allowed incidences of seclusion in schools;

- requires local education agencies to collect and report data on incidents of student confinement;

- provides for investigation and enforcement requirements;

- outlines liability protections and exceptions;

- establishes consequences for violations of the law; and

- makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**53E-1-203**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 460

**53G-8-203**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 75

**80-1-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 256

## REPEALS AND REENACTS:

**53G-8-301**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 3

## REPEALS:

**53G-8-302**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 293

**53G-8-303**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 335

**53G-8-304**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 3

**53G-8-305**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 293

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

Section 1. Section **53E-1-203** is amended to read:

**53E-1-203 . State Superintendent's Annual Report.**

- (1) The state board shall prepare and submit to the governor, the Education Interim Committee, and the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee, by January 15 of each year, an annual written report known as the State Superintendent's Annual Report that includes:
- (a) the operations, activities, programs, and services of the state board;
  - (b) subject to Subsection (4)(b), all reports listed in Subsection (4)(a); and
  - (c) data on the general condition of the schools with recommendations considered desirable for specific programs, including:
    - (i) a complete statement of fund balances;
    - (ii) a complete statement of revenues by fund and source;
    - (iii) a complete statement of adjusted expenditures by fund, the status of bonded indebtedness, the cost of new school plants, and school levies;
    - (iv) a complete statement of state funds allocated to each school district and charter school by source, including supplemental appropriations, and a complete statement of expenditures by each school district and charter school, including supplemental appropriations, by function and object as outlined in the United States Department of Education publication "Financial Accounting for Local and State School Systems";
    - (v) a statement that includes data on:
      - (A) fall enrollments;
      - (B) average membership;
      - (C) high school graduates;
      - (D) licensed and classified employees, including data reported by school districts

- on educator ratings described in Section 53G-11-511;
- (E) pupil-teacher ratios;
- (F) average class sizes;
- (G) average salaries;
- (H) applicable private school data; and
- (I) data from statewide assessments described in Section 53E-4-301 for each school and school district;
- (vi) statistical information for each school district and charter school regarding:
- (A) student attendance by grade level;
- (B) the percentage of students chronically absent;
- (C) the percentage of student excused absences; and
- (D) the percentage of student unexcused absences;
- (vii) statistical information regarding incidents of delinquent activity in the schools, at school-related activities, on school buses, and at school bus stops; and
- (viii) other statistical and financial information about the school system that the state superintendent considers pertinent.
- (2)(a) For the purposes of Subsection (1)(c)(v):
- (i) the pupil-teacher ratio for a school shall be calculated by dividing the number of students enrolled in a school by the number of full-time equivalent teachers assigned to the school, including regular classroom teachers, school-based specialists, and special education teachers;
- (ii) the pupil-teacher ratio for a school district shall be the median pupil-teacher ratio of the schools within a school district;
- (iii) the pupil-teacher ratio for charter schools aggregated shall be the median pupil-teacher ratio of charter schools in the state; and
- (iv) the pupil-teacher ratio for the state's public schools aggregated shall be the median pupil-teacher ratio of public schools in the state.
- (b) The report shall:
- (i) include the pupil-teacher ratio for:
- (A) each school district;
- (B) the charter schools aggregated; and
- (C) the state's public schools aggregated; and
- (ii) identify a website where pupil-teacher ratios for each school in the state may be accessed.

- 97 (3) For each operation, activity, program, or service provided by the state board, the annual  
98 report shall include:
- 99 (a) a description of the operation, activity, program, or service;
- 100 (b) data and metrics:
- 101 (i) selected and used by the state board to measure progress, performance,  
102 effectiveness, and scope of the operation, activity, program, or service, including  
103 summary data; and
- 104 (ii) that are consistent and comparable for each state operation, activity, program, or  
105 service;
- 106 (c) budget data, including the amount and source of funding, expenses, and allocation of  
107 full-time employees for the operation, activity, program, or service;
- 108 (d) historical data from previous years for comparison with data reported under  
109 Subsections (3)(b) and (c);
- 110 (e) goals, challenges, and achievements related to the operation, activity, program, or  
111 service;
- 112 (f) relevant federal and state statutory references and requirements;
- 113 (g) contact information of officials knowledgeable and responsible for each operation,  
114 activity, program, or service; and
- 115 (h) other information determined by the state board that:
- 116 (i) may be needed, useful, or of historical significance; or
- 117 (ii) promotes accountability and transparency for each operation, activity, program,  
118 or service with the public and elected officials.
- 119 (4)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), the annual report shall also include:
- 120 (i) the report described in Section 53E-3-507 by the state board on career and  
121 technical education needs and program access;
- 122 (ii) the report described in Section 53E-3-515 by the state board on the Hospitality  
123 and Tourism Management Career and Technical Education Pilot Program;
- 124 (iii) the report described in Section 53E-3-516 by the state board on certain incidents  
125 that occur on school grounds;
- 126 (iv) the report described in Section 53E-4-202 by the state board on the development  
127 and implementation of the core standards for Utah public schools;
- 128 (v) the report described in Section 53E-5-310 by the state board on school turnaround  
129 and leadership development;
- 130 (vi) the report described in Section 53E-10-308 by the state board and Utah Board of

Higher Education on student participation in the concurrent enrollment program;  
(vii) the report described in Section 53F-5-506 by the state board on information  
related to personalized, competency-based learning; ~~and]~~  
(viii) the report described in Section 53G-8-203 by the state board on LEAs' policies  
and procedures related to physical restraint and interventions; and  
~~[(viii)]~~ (ix) the report described in Section 53G-9-802 by the state board on dropout  
prevention and recovery services.

(b) The Education Interim Committee or the Public Education Appropriations  
Subcommittee may request a report described in Subsection (4)(a) to be reported  
separately from the State Superintendent's Annual Report.

(5) The annual report shall be designed to provide clear, accurate, and accessible  
information to the public, the governor, and the Legislature.

(6) The state board shall:

- (a) submit the annual report in accordance with Section 68-3-14; and
- (b) make the annual report, and previous annual reports, accessible to the public by  
placing a link to the reports on the state board's website.

(7)(a) Upon request of the Education Interim Committee or Public Education  
Appropriations Subcommittee, the state board shall present the State Superintendent's  
Annual Report to either committee.

(b) After submitting the State Superintendent's Annual Report in accordance with this  
section, the state board may supplement the report at a later time with updated data,  
information, or other materials as necessary or upon request by the governor, the  
Education Interim Committee, or the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

Section 2. Section **53G-8-203** is amended to read:

**53G-8-203 . Conduct and discipline policies and procedures.**

(1) The conduct and discipline policies required under Section 53G-8-202 shall include:

- (a) provisions governing student conduct, safety, and welfare;
- (b) standards and procedures for dealing with students who cause disruption in the  
classroom, on school grounds, on school vehicles, or in connection with  
school-related activities or events;
- (c) procedures for the development of remedial discipline plans for students who cause a  
disruption at any of the places referred to in Subsection (1)(b);
- (d) procedures for the use of reasonable and necessary physical restraint in dealing with  
students posing a danger to themselves or others, consistent with Section ~~[53G-8-302]~~

165        53G-8-301;

166        (e) standards and procedures for dealing with student conduct in locations other than  
167        those referred to in Subsection (1)(b), if the conduct threatens harm or does harm to:

168        (i) the school;

169        (ii) school property;

170        (iii) a person associated with the school; or

171        (iv) property associated with a person described in Subsection (1)(e)(iii);

172        (f) procedures for the imposition of disciplinary sanctions, including suspension and  
173        expulsion;

174        (g) specific provisions, consistent with Section 53E-3-509, for preventing and  
175        responding to gang-related activities in the school, on school grounds, on school  
176        vehicles, or in connection with school-related activities or events;

177        (h) standards and procedures for dealing with habitual disruptive or unsafe student  
178        behavior in accordance with the provisions of this part; and

179        (i) procedures for responding to reports received through the SafeUT Crisis Line under  
180        Subsection 53B-17-1202(3).

181        (2)(a) Each local school board shall establish a policy on detaining students after regular  
182        school hours as a part of the district-wide discipline plan required under Section  
183        53G-8-202.

184        (b)(i) The policy described in Subsection (2)(a) shall apply to elementary school  
185        students, grades kindergarten through 6.

186        (ii) The local school board shall receive input from teachers, school administrators,  
187        and parents of the affected students before adopting the policy.

188        (c) The policy described in Subsection (2)(a) shall provide for:

189        (i) notice to the parent of a student prior to holding the student after school on a  
190        particular day; and

191        (ii) exceptions to the notice provision if detention is necessary for the student's health  
192        or safety.

193        (3)(a) Each LEA shall adopt a policy for responding to possession or use of electronic  
194        cigarette products by a student on school property.

195        (b) The policy described in Subsection (3)(a) shall:

196        (i) prohibit students from possessing or using electronic cigarette products on school  
197        property;

198        (ii) include policies or procedures for the confiscation or surrender of electronic

- 199 cigarette products; and
- 200 (iii) require a school administrator or school administrator's designee to dispose of or
- 201 destroy a confiscated electronic cigarette product.
- 202 (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (3)(b)(iii), an LEA may release a confiscated electronic
- 203 cigarette product to local law enforcement if:
- 204 (i) a school official has a reasonable suspicion that a confiscated electronic cigarette
- 205 product contains an illegal substance; and
- 206 (ii) local law enforcement requests that the LEA release the confiscated electronic
- 207 cigarette product to local law enforcement as part of an investigation or action.
- 208 (4)(a) Each LEA shall adopt a policy for responding to when a student has committed a
- 209 serious offense or sexual crime.
- 210 (b) The policy described in Subsection (4)(a) shall:
- 211 (i) address a serious offense or sexual misconduct related to hazing;
- 212 (ii) distinguish procedures for when the crime occurs on school property and off of
- 213 school property;
- 214 (iii) if a student has committed a serious offense or sexual crime, provide a process
- 215 for a school resource officer to provide input for the LEA to consider regarding
- 216 the safety risks a student may pose upon reintegration;
- 217 (iv) establish a process to inform a school resource officer of any student who is on
- 218 probation;
- 219 (v) create procedures for determining an alternative placement for a student if the
- 220 student attends the same school as:
- 221 (A) the victim of the student's crime; and
- 222 (B) an individual who has a protective order against the student; and
- 223 (vi) be compliant with state and federal law.

224 Section 3. Section **53G-8-301** is repealed and reenacted to read:

225 **Part 3. Emergency Safety Interventions**

226 **53G-8-301 . Emergency safety interventions -- Appropriate uses -- Penalties.**

227 **(1) As used in this section:**

- 228 (a) "Corporal punishment" means the intentional infliction of physical pain upon the
- 229 body of a student as a disciplinary measure.
- 230 (b) "Emergency safety intervention" means the use of seclusion or physical restraint
- 231 when a student presents an immediate danger to self or others.
- 232 (c) "Physical escort" means a temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm,

shoulder, or back for the purpose of guiding a student to another location.

(d) "Physical restraint" means a personal restriction that immobilizes or significantly reduces the ability of a student to move the student's arms, legs, body, or head freely.

(e) "School" means a public or private elementary school, secondary school, or preschool.

(f) "Seclusion" means seclusionary time out that is the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving, including:

(i) placing a student in a locked room; or

(ii) placing a student in a room where the door is blocked by furniture or held closed by staff.

(g) "Student" means an individual who is:

(i) under the age of 19 and receiving educational services; or

(ii) under the age of 23 and receiving educational services as an individual with a disability.

(2)(a) A school employee shall first use the least restrictive intervention available to the school employee, including a physical escort, to address circumstances described in Subsection (4).

(b) Nothing in this section prohibits a school employee from subsequently using less restrictive interventions to address circumstances described in Subsection (4).

(3)(a) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the state board shall make rules to:

(i) establish guidelines and best practices that consider individual student needs related to emergency safety interventions described in Subsection (10)(b);

(ii) establish intervention reporting requirements;

(iii) create school staff training standards that may be included in an existing training;

(iv) develop parental notification procedures;

(v) implement data collection and review processes;

(vi) establish investigation protocols;

(vii) establish data collection and reporting requirements for an LEA regarding:

(A) incidents of seclusion;

(B) alternative interventions used;

(C) student demographic information, including sex, gender, age, grade in school, and applicable disability status; and



- (D) incident outcomes.
- (b) The state board shall include the information described in Subsection (3)(a) in the State Superintendent's Annual Report described in Section 53E-1-203.
- (4) A school employee may use reasonable and necessary physical restraint only:
- (a) in self defense;
- (b) to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object in the possession or under the control of a student;
- (c) to protect a student or another individual from physical injury;
- (d) to remove from a situation a student who is violent; or
- (e) to protect property from being damaged, when physical safety is at risk.
- (5)(a) A school employee may not inflict or cause the infliction of corporal punishment upon a student.
- (b) The reporting and investigation requirements of Title 80, Chapter 2, Part 6, Child Abuse and Neglect Reports, apply to complaints on corporal punishment.
- (c) Evidence of corporal punishment that would qualify as reasonable discipline under Section 76-2-401 is insufficient to establish liability in a civil or criminal action.
- (d) Subject to the Rules of Evidence, evidence of corporal punishment that exceeds reasonable discipline under Section 76-2-401 may be used by a court to establish civil or criminal liability.
- (6) School authorities shall take prompt and appropriate action, including in-service training and other administrative action, upon confirming a violation of this section.
- (7) The Division of Child and Family Services shall maintain all violation reports made in accordance with this section under the confidentiality requirements of Section 80-2-1005.
- (8) A school or individual who makes a good faith report or cooperates in an investigation shall receive immunity from civil or criminal liability.
- (9) A court with jurisdiction under Title 78A, Judiciary and Judicial Administration may take appropriate action against any employing entity if the court finds that the employing entity has not taken reasonable steps to enforce the provisions of this part.
- (10) A school:
- (a) may not:
- (i) enforce any rule, policy, or directive that permits acts prohibited by this section;
- (ii) sanction an employee who refuses to commit a prohibited act; or
- (iii) except as provided in Subsection (10)(b), use seclusion:
- (A) as an intervention or disciplinary practice;

- 301           (B) for coercion, retaliation, or humiliation; or  
302           (C) due to inadequate staffing or for the staff member's convenience.  
303       (b) for a student in grade 1 or higher, may use seclusion as an emergency safety  
304       intervention only when:  
305           (i) the LEA has developed and implemented written policies and procedures that:  
306               (A) describe the circumstances under which a staff member may use seclusion;  
307               (B) describe which staff members are authorized to use seclusion;  
308               (C) describe procedures for monitoring a student that is in seclusion;  
309               (D) describe time limitations on the use of seclusion;  
310               (E) require immediate and continuous review of the decision to use seclusion;  
311               (F) require documenting the use of seclusion;  
312               (G) describe record keeping requirements for records related to the use of  
313               seclusion; and  
314               (H) require debriefing of all witnesses, involved staff members, the student who  
315               was secluded, and the parent of the student who was secluded;  
316           (ii) a student poses an immediate and significant threat to the student or others; and  
317           (iii) less restrictive interventions have failed;  
318           (iv) a staff member who is familiar to the student is actively supervising the student  
319               for the duration of the seclusion; and  
320           (v) the use is time-limited to a maximum time of 30 minutes and monitored; and  
321       (c) if seclusion was used, shall document the reason for its use, duration, and any  
322       alternative strategies attempted; and  
323       (d) shall notify parents immediately, and not to exceed 15 minutes after the use, of any  
324       emergency safety intervention used on the parent's child, including seclusion or  
325       physical restraint.  
326       (11) An LEA shall collect and report data to the state board annually regarding:  
327           (a) an incident; and  
328           (b) for each incident, the:  
329               (i) duration of an intervention used to respond to the incident;  
330               (ii) stated purpose for any intervention used;  
331               (iii) alternative interventions attempted;  
332               (iv) student demographic information, including sex, gender, age, grade in school,  
333               and applicable disability status; and  
334               (v) relevant training offered to staff and if the staff involved received the relevant

335 training without revealing the identity of the staff member.

336 (12) This section does not apply to:

337 (a) a law enforcement officer as defined in Section 53-13-103;

338 (b) a parochial or private school that:

339 (i) does not receive state funds;

340 (ii) adopts a policy of exemption from this section; and

341 (iii) notifies the parents of students in the school of the exemption; or

342 (c) behavior support intervention which is in compliance with:

343 (i) Section 76-2-401; and

344 (ii) state and local rules adopted under Section 53E-7-204.

345 (13) Any violations of this section, including violations of any standards for seclusion or  
346 physical restraint established by the state board pursuant to this section, shall:

347 (a) constitute an act of unlawful detention and is subject to the penalty described in  
348 Section 76-5-304; and

349 (b) result in a referral to:

350 (i) local law enforcement; and

351 (ii) the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission established in Section  
352 53E-6-501.

353 Section 4. Section **80-1-102** is amended to read:

354 **80-1-102 . Juvenile Code definitions.**

355 Except as provided in Section 80-6-1103, as used in this title:

356 (1)(a) "Abuse" means:

357 (i)(A) nonaccidental harm of a child;

358 (B) threatened harm of a child;

359 (C) sexual exploitation;

360 (D) sexual abuse; or

361 (E) human trafficking of a child in violation of Section 76-5-308.5; or

362 (ii) that a child's natural parent:

363 (A) intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes the death of another parent of  
364 the child;

365 (B) is identified by a law enforcement agency as the primary suspect in an  
366 investigation for intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing the death of  
367 another parent of the child; or

368 (C) is being prosecuted for or has been convicted of intentionally, knowingly, or

- 369 recklessly causing the death of another parent of the child.
- 370 (b) "Abuse" does not include:
- 371 (i) reasonable discipline or management of a child, including withholding privileges;
- 372 (ii) conduct described in Section 76-2-401; or
- 373 (iii) the use of reasonable and necessary physical restraint or force on a child:
- 374 (A) in self-defense;
- 375 (B) in defense of others;
- 376 (C) to protect the child; or
- 377 (D) to remove a weapon in the possession of a child for any of the reasons
- 378 described in Subsections (1)(b)(iii)(A) through (C).
- 379 (2) "Abused child" means a child who has been subjected to abuse.
- 380 (3)(a) "Adjudication" means, except as provided in Subsection (3)(b):
- 381 (i) for a delinquency petition or criminal information under Chapter 6, Juvenile
- 382 Justice:
- 383 (A) a finding by the juvenile court that the facts alleged in a delinquency petition
- 384 or criminal information alleging that a minor committed an offense have been
- 385 proved;
- 386 (B) an admission by a minor in the juvenile court as described in Section 80-6-306;
- 387 or
- 388 (C) a plea of no contest by minor in the juvenile court; or
- 389 (ii) for all other proceedings under this title, a finding by the juvenile court that the
- 390 facts alleged in the petition have been proved.
- 391 (b) "Adjudication" does not include:
- 392 (i) an admission by a minor described in Section 80-6-306 until the juvenile court
- 393 enters the minor's admission; or
- 394 (ii) a finding of not competent to proceed in accordance with Section 80-6-402.
- 395 (4)(a) "Adult" means an individual who is 18 years old or older.
- 396 (b) "Adult" does not include an individual:
- 397 (i) who is 18 years old or older; and
- 398 (ii) who is a minor.
- 399 (5) "Attorney guardian ad litem" means the same as that term is defined in Section
- 400 78A-2-801.
- 401 (6) "Board" means the Board of Juvenile Court Judges.
- 402 (7) "Child" means, except as provided in Section 80-2-905, an individual who is under 18

403 years old.

404 (8) "Child and family plan" means a written agreement between a child's parents or  
405 guardian and the Division of Child and Family Services as described in Section 80-3-307.

406 (9) "Child placing" means the same as that term is defined in Section 26B-2-101.

407 (10) "Child-placing agency" means the same as that term is defined in Section 26B-2-101.

408 (11) "Child protection team" means a team consisting of:

409 (a) the child welfare caseworker assigned to the case;

410 (b) if applicable, the child welfare caseworker who made the decision to remove the  
411 child;

412 (c) a representative of the school or school district where the child attends school;

413 (d) if applicable, the law enforcement officer who removed the child from the home;

414 (e) a representative of the appropriate Children's Justice Center, if one is established  
415 within the county where the child resides;

416 (f) if appropriate, and known to the division, a therapist or counselor who is familiar  
417 with the child's circumstances;

418 (g) if appropriate, a representative of law enforcement selected by the chief of police or  
419 sheriff in the city or county where the child resides; and

420 (h) any other individuals determined appropriate and necessary by the team coordinator  
421 and chair.

422 (12)(a) "Chronic abuse" means repeated or patterned abuse.

423 (b) "Chronic abuse" does not mean an isolated incident of abuse.

424 (13)(a) "Chronic neglect" means repeated or patterned neglect.

425 (b) "Chronic neglect" does not mean an isolated incident of neglect.

426 (14) "Clandestine laboratory operation" means the same as that term is defined in Section  
427 58-37d-3.

428 (15) "Commit" or "committed" means, unless specified otherwise:

429 (a) with respect to a child, to transfer legal custody; and

430 (b) with respect to a minor who is at least 18 years old, to transfer custody.

431 (16) "Community-based program" means a nonsecure residential or nonresidential program,  
432 designated to supervise and rehabilitate juvenile offenders, that prioritizes the least  
433 restrictive setting, consistent with public safety, and operated by or under contract with  
434 the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services.

435 (17) "Community placement" means placement of a minor in a community-based program  
436 described in Section 80-5-402.

- 437 (18) "Correctional facility" means:  
438 (a) a county jail; or  
439 (b) a secure correctional facility as defined in Section 64-13-1.
- 440 (19) "Criminogenic risk factors" means evidence-based factors that are associated with a  
441 minor's likelihood of reoffending.
- 442 (20) "Department" means the Department of Health and Human Services created in Section  
443 26B-1-201.
- 444 (21) "Dependent child" or "dependency" means a child who is without proper care through  
445 no fault of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian.
- 446 (22) "Deprivation of custody" means transfer of legal custody by the juvenile court from a  
447 parent or a previous custodian to another person, agency, or institution.
- 448 (23) "Detention" means home detention or secure detention.
- 449 (24) "Detention facility" means a facility, established by the Division of Juvenile Justice  
450 and Youth Services in accordance with Section 80-5-501, for minors held in detention.
- 451 (25) "Detention risk assessment tool" means an evidence-based tool established under  
452 Section 80-5-203 that:  
453 (a) assesses a minor's risk of failing to appear in court or reoffending before  
454 adjudication; and  
455 (b) is designed to assist in making a determination of whether a minor shall be held in  
456 detention.
- 457 (26) "Developmental immaturity" means incomplete development in one or more domains  
458 that manifests as a functional limitation in the minor's present ability to:  
459 (a) consult with counsel with a reasonable degree of rational understanding; and  
460 (b) have a rational as well as factual understanding of the proceedings.
- 461 (27) "Disposition" means an order by a juvenile court, after the adjudication of a minor,  
462 under Section 80-3-405 or 80-4-305 or Chapter 6, Part 7, Adjudication and Disposition.
- 463 (28) "Educational neglect" means that, after receiving a notice of compulsory education  
464 violation under Section 53G-6-202, the parent or guardian fails to make a good faith  
465 effort to ensure that the child receives an appropriate education.
- 466 (29) "Educational series" means an evidence-based instructional series:  
467 (a) obtained at a substance abuse program that is approved by the Division of Integrated  
468 Healthcare in accordance with Section 26B-5-104; and  
469 (b) designed to prevent substance use or the onset of a mental health disorder.
- 470 (30) "Emancipated" means the same as that term is defined in Section 80-7-102.

- 471 (31) "Evidence-based" means a program or practice that has had multiple randomized  
472 control studies or a meta-analysis demonstrating that the program or practice is effective  
473 for a specific population or has been rated as effective by a standardized program  
474 evaluation tool.
- 475 (32) "Forensic evaluator" means the same as that term is defined in Section 77-15-2.
- 476 (33) "Formal probation" means a minor is:
- 477 (a) supervised in the community by, and reports to, a juvenile probation officer or an  
478 agency designated by the juvenile court; and
- 479 (b) subject to return to the juvenile court in accordance with Section 80-6-607.
- 480 (34) "Group rehabilitation therapy" means psychological and social counseling of one or  
481 more individuals in the group, depending upon the recommendation of the therapist.
- 482 (35) "Guardian" means a person appointed by a court to make decisions regarding a minor,  
483 including the authority to consent to:
- 484 (a) marriage;
- 485 (b) enlistment in the armed forces;
- 486 (c) major medical, surgical, or psychiatric treatment; or
- 487 (d) legal custody, if legal custody is not vested in another individual, agency, or  
488 institution.
- 489 (36) "Guardian ad litem" means the same as that term is defined in Section 78A-2-801.
- 490 (37) "Harm" means:
- 491 (a) physical or developmental injury or damage;
- 492 (b) emotional damage that results in a serious impairment in the child's growth,  
493 development, behavior, or psychological functioning;
- 494 (c) sexual abuse; or
- 495 (d) sexual exploitation.
- 496 (38) "Home detention" means placement of a minor:
- 497 (a) if prior to a disposition, in the minor's home, or in a surrogate home with the consent  
498 of the minor's parent, guardian, or custodian, under terms and conditions established  
499 by the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services or the juvenile court; or
- 500 (b) if after a disposition, and in accordance with Section 78A-6-353 or 80-6-704, in the  
501 minor's home, or in a surrogate home with the consent of the minor's parent,  
502 guardian, or custodian, under terms and conditions established by the Division of  
503 Juvenile Justice and Youth Services or the juvenile court.
- 504 (39)(a) "Incest" means engaging in sexual intercourse with an individual whom the

perpetrator knows to be the perpetrator's ancestor, descendant, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, or first cousin.

(b) "Incest" includes:

(i) blood relationships of the whole or half blood, regardless of whether the relationship is legally recognized;

(ii) relationships of parent and child by adoption; and

(iii) relationships of stepparent and stepchild while the marriage creating the relationship of a stepparent and stepchild exists.

(40) "Indian child" means the same as that term is defined in 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903.

(41) "Indian tribe" means the same as that term is defined in 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903.

(42) "Indigent defense service provider" means the same as that term is defined in Section 78B-22-102.

(43) "Indigent defense services" means the same as that term is defined in Section 78B-22-102.

(44) "Indigent individual" means the same as that term is defined in Section 78B-22-102.

(45)(a) "Intake probation" means a minor is:

(i) monitored by a juvenile probation officer; and

(ii) subject to return to the juvenile court in accordance with Section 80-6-607.

(b) "Intake probation" does not include formal probation.

(46) "Intellectual disability" means a significant subaverage general intellectual functioning existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior that constitutes a substantial limitation to the individual's ability to function in society.

(47) "Juvenile offender" means:

(a) a serious youth offender; or

(b) a youth offender.

(48) "Juvenile probation officer" means a probation officer appointed under Section 78A-6-205.

(49) "Juvenile receiving center" means a nonsecure, nonresidential program established by the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services, or under contract with the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services, that is responsible for minors taken into temporary custody under Section 80-6-201.

(50) "Legal custody" means a relationship embodying:

(a) the right to physical custody of the minor;

(b) the right and duty to protect, train, and discipline the minor;



(c) the duty to provide the minor with food, clothing, shelter, education, and ordinary medical care;

(d) the right to determine where and with whom the minor shall live; and

(e) the right, in an emergency, to authorize surgery or other extraordinary care.

(51) "Licensing Information System" means the Licensing Information System maintained by the Division of Child and Family Services under Section 80-2-1002.

(52) "Management Information System" means the Management Information System developed by the Division of Child and Family Services under Section 80-2-1001.

(53) "Mental illness" means:

(a) a psychiatric disorder that substantially impairs an individual's mental, emotional, behavioral, or related functioning; or

(b) the same as that term is defined in:

(i) the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association; or

(ii) the current edition of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems.

(54) "Minor" means, except as provided in Sections 80-6-501, 80-6-901, and 80-7-102:

(a) a child; or

(b) an individual:

(i)(A) who is at least 18 years old and younger than 21 years old; and

(B) for whom the Division of Child and Family Services has been specifically ordered by the juvenile court to provide services because the individual was an abused, neglected, or dependent child or because the individual was adjudicated for an offense;

(ii)(A) who is at least 18 years old and younger than 25 years old; and

(B) whose case is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court in accordance with Subsection 78A-6-103(1)(b); or

(iii)(A) who is at least 18 years old and younger than 21 years old; and

(B) whose case is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court in accordance with Subsection 78A-6-103(1)(c).

(55) "Mobile crisis outreach team" means the same as that term is defined in Section 26B-5-101.

(56) "Molestation" means that an individual, with the intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any individual, touches the anus, buttocks, pubic area, or genitalia of any child,

or the breast of a female child, or takes indecent liberties with a child as defined in Section 76-5-401.1.

(57)(a) "Natural parent" means, except as provided in Section 80-3-302, a minor's biological or adoptive parent.

(b) "Natural parent" includes the minor's noncustodial parent.

(58)(a) "Neglect" means action or inaction causing:

(i) abandonment of a child, except as provided in Chapter 4, Part 5, Safe Relinquishment of a Newborn Child;

(ii) lack of proper parental care of a child by reason of the fault or habits of the parent, guardian, or custodian;

(iii) failure or refusal of a parent, guardian, or custodian to provide proper or necessary subsistence or medical care, or any other care necessary for the child's health, safety, morals, or well-being;

(iv) a child to be at risk of being neglected or abused because another child in the same home is neglected or abused;

(v) abandonment of a child through an unregulated child custody transfer under Section 78B-24-203; or

(vi) educational neglect.

(b) "Neglect" does not include:

(i) a parent or guardian legitimately practicing religious beliefs and who, for that reason, does not provide specified medical treatment for a child;

(ii) a health care decision made for a child by the child's parent or guardian, unless the state or other party to a proceeding shows, by clear and convincing evidence, that the health care decision is not reasonable and informed;

(iii) a parent or guardian exercising the right described in Section 80-3-304; or

(iv) permitting a child, whose basic needs are met and who is of sufficient age and maturity to avoid harm or unreasonable risk of harm, to engage in independent activities, including:

(A) traveling to and from school, including by walking, running, or bicycling;

(B) traveling to and from nearby commercial or recreational facilities;

(C) engaging in outdoor play;

(D) remaining in a vehicle unattended, except under the conditions described in Subsection 76-10-2202(2);

(E) remaining at home unattended; or

- 607 (F) engaging in a similar independent activity.
- 608 (59) "Neglected child" means a child who has been subjected to neglect.
- 609 (60) "Nonjudicial adjustment" means closure of the case by the assigned juvenile probation  
610 officer, without an adjudication of the minor's case under Section 80-6-701, upon the  
611 consent in writing of:
- 612 (a) the assigned juvenile probation officer; and
- 613 (b)(i) the minor; or
- 614 (ii) the minor and the minor's parent, guardian, or custodian.
- 615 (61) "Not competent to proceed" means that a minor, due to a mental illness, intellectual  
616 disability or related condition, or developmental immaturity, lacks the ability to:
- 617 (a) understand the nature of the proceedings against the minor or of the potential  
618 disposition for the offense charged; or
- 619 (b) consult with counsel and participate in the proceedings against the minor with a  
620 reasonable degree of rational understanding.
- 621 (62) "Parole" means a conditional release of a juvenile offender from residency in secure  
622 care to live outside of secure care under the supervision of the Division of Juvenile  
623 Justice and Youth Services, or another person designated by the Division of Juvenile  
624 Justice and Youth Services.
- 625 (63) "Physical abuse" means abuse that results in physical injury or damage to a child.
- 626 (64)(a) "Probation" means a legal status created by court order, following an  
627 adjudication under Section 80-6-701, whereby the minor is permitted to remain in the  
628 minor's home under prescribed conditions.
- 629 (b) "Probation" includes intake probation or formal probation.
- 630 (65) "Prosecuting attorney" means:
- 631 (a) the attorney general and any assistant attorney general;
- 632 (b) any district attorney or deputy district attorney;
- 633 (c) any county attorney or assistant county attorney; and
- 634 (d) any other attorney authorized to commence an action on behalf of the state.
- 635 (66) "Protective custody" means the shelter of a child by the Division of Child and Family  
636 Services from the time the child is removed from the home until the earlier of:
- 637 (a) the day on which the shelter hearing is held under Section 80-3-301; or
- 638 (b) the day on which the child is returned home.
- 639 (67) "Protective services" means expedited services that are provided:
- 640 (a) in response to evidence of neglect, abuse, or dependency of a child;

- (b) to a cohabitant who is neglecting or abusing a child, in order to:
  - (i) help the cohabitant develop recognition of the cohabitant's duty of care and of the causes of neglect or abuse; and
  - (ii) strengthen the cohabitant's ability to provide safe and acceptable care; and
- (c) in cases where the child's welfare is endangered:
  - (i) to bring the situation to the attention of the appropriate juvenile court and law enforcement agency;
  - (ii) to cause a protective order to be issued for the protection of the child, when appropriate; and
  - (iii) to protect the child from the circumstances that endanger the child's welfare including, when appropriate:
    - (A) removal from the child's home;
    - (B) placement in substitute care; and
    - (C) petitioning the court for termination of parental rights.

(68) "Protective supervision" means a legal status created by court order, following an adjudication on the ground of abuse, neglect, or dependency, whereby:

- (a) the minor is permitted to remain in the minor's home; and
- (b) supervision and assistance to correct the abuse, neglect, or dependency is provided by an agency designated by the juvenile court.

(69)(a) "Related condition" means a condition that:

- (i) is found to be closely related to intellectual disability;
- (ii) results in impairment of general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior similar to that of an intellectually disabled individual;
- (iii) is likely to continue indefinitely; and
- (iv) constitutes a substantial limitation to the individual's ability to function in society.

(b) "Related condition" does not include mental illness, psychiatric impairment, or serious emotional or behavioral disturbance.

(70)(a) "Residual parental rights and duties" means the rights and duties remaining with a parent after legal custody or guardianship, or both, have been vested in another person or agency, including:

- (i) the responsibility for support;
- (ii) the right to consent to adoption;
- (iii) the right to determine the child's religious affiliation; and
- (iv) the right to reasonable parent-time unless restricted by the court.

- 675 (b) If no guardian has been appointed, "residual parental rights and duties" includes the  
676 right to consent to:
- 677 (i) marriage;
- 678 (ii) enlistment; and
- 679 (iii) major medical, surgical, or psychiatric treatment.
- 680 (71) "Runaway" means a child, other than an emancipated child, who willfully leaves the  
681 home of the child's parent or guardian, or the lawfully prescribed residence of the child,  
682 without permission.
- 683 (72) "Secure care" means placement of a minor, who is committed to the Division of  
684 Juvenile Justice and Youth Services for rehabilitation, in a facility operated by, or under  
685 contract with, the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services, that provides 24-hour  
686 supervision and confinement of the minor.
- 687 (73) "Secure care facility" means a facility, established in accordance with Section 80-5-503,  
688 for juvenile offenders in secure care.
- 689 (74) "Secure detention" means temporary care of a minor who requires secure custody in a  
690 physically restricting facility operated by, or under contract with, the Division of  
691 Juvenile Justice and Youth Services:
- 692 (a) before disposition of an offense that is alleged to have been committed by the minor;
- 693 or
- 694 (b) under Section 80-6-704.
- 695 (75) "Serious youth offender" means an individual who:
- 696 (a) is at least 14 years old, but under 25 years old;
- 697 (b) committed a felony listed in Subsection 80-6-503(1) and the continuing jurisdiction  
698 of the juvenile court was extended over the individual's case until the individual was  
699 25 years old in accordance with Section 80-6-605; and
- 700 (c) is committed by the juvenile court to the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth  
701 Services for secure care under Sections 80-6-703 and 80-6-705.
- 702 (76) "Severe abuse" means abuse that causes or threatens to cause serious harm to a child.
- 703 (77) "Severe neglect" means neglect that causes or threatens to cause serious harm to a  
704 child.
- 705 (78)(a) "Severe type of child abuse or neglect" means, except as provided in Subsection  
706 (78)(b):
- 707 (i) if committed by an individual who is 18 years old or older:
- 708 (A) chronic abuse;

- 709 (B) severe abuse;  
710 (C) sexual abuse;  
711 (D) sexual exploitation;  
712 (E) abandonment;  
713 (F) chronic neglect; or  
714 (G) severe neglect; or  
715 (ii) if committed by an individual who is under 18 years old:  
716 (A) causing serious physical injury, as defined in Subsection 76-5-109(1), to  
717 another child that indicates a significant risk to other children; or  
718 (B) sexual behavior with or upon another child that indicates a significant risk to  
719 other children.
- 720 (b) "Severe type of child abuse or neglect" does not include:  
721 (i) the use of reasonable and necessary physical restraint by an educator in  
722 accordance with [~~Subsection 53G-8-302(2)~~] Section 53G-8-301 or Section  
723 76-2-401;  
724 (ii) an individual's conduct that is justified under Section 76-2-401 or constitutes the  
725 use of reasonable and necessary physical restraint or force in self-defense or  
726 otherwise appropriate to the circumstances to obtain possession of a weapon or  
727 other dangerous object in the possession or under the control of a child or to  
728 protect the child or another individual from physical injury; or  
729 (iii) a health care decision made for a child by a child's parent or guardian, unless,  
730 subject to Subsection (78)(c), the state or other party to the proceeding shows, by  
731 clear and convincing evidence, that the health care decision is not reasonable and  
732 informed.
- 733 (c) Subsection (78)(b)(iii) does not prohibit a parent or guardian from exercising the  
734 right to obtain a second health care opinion.
- 735 (79) "Sexual abuse" means:  
736 (a) an act or attempted act of sexual intercourse, sodomy, incest, or molestation by an  
737 adult directed towards a child;  
738 (b) an act or attempted act of sexual intercourse, sodomy, incest, or molestation  
739 committed by a child towards another child if:  
740 (i) there is an indication of force or coercion;  
741 (ii) the children are related, as described in Subsection (39), including siblings by  
742 marriage while the marriage exists or by adoption;

- 743 (iii) there have been repeated incidents of sexual contact between the two children,  
744 unless the children are 14 years old or older; or
- 745 (iv) there is a disparity in chronological age of four or more years between the two  
746 children;
- 747 (c) engaging in any conduct with a child that would constitute an offense under any of  
748 the following, regardless of whether the individual who engages in the conduct is  
749 actually charged with, or convicted of, the offense:
- 750 (i) Title 76, Chapter 5, Part 4, Sexual Offenses, except for Section 76-5-401, if the  
751 alleged perpetrator of an offense described in Section 76-5-401 is a minor;
- 752 (ii) child bigamy, Section 76-7-101.5;
- 753 (iii) incest, Section 76-7-102;
- 754 (iv) lewdness, Section 76-9-702;
- 755 (v) sexual battery, Section 76-9-702.1;
- 756 (vi) lewdness involving a child, Section 76-9-702.5; or
- 757 (vii) voyeurism, Section 76-9-702.7; or
- 758 (d) subjecting a child to participate in or threatening to subject a child to participate in a  
759 sexual relationship, regardless of whether that sexual relationship is part of a legal or  
760 cultural marriage.
- 761 (80) "Sexual exploitation" means knowingly:
- 762 (a) employing, using, persuading, inducing, enticing, or coercing any child to:
- 763 (i) pose in the nude for the purpose of sexual arousal of any individual; or
- 764 (ii) engage in any sexual or simulated sexual conduct for the purpose of  
765 photographing, filming, recording, or displaying in any way the sexual or  
766 simulated sexual conduct;
- 767 (b) displaying, distributing, possessing for the purpose of distribution, or selling material  
768 depicting a child:
- 769 (i) in the nude, for the purpose of sexual arousal of any individual; or
- 770 (ii) engaging in sexual or simulated sexual conduct; or
- 771 (c) engaging in any conduct that would constitute an offense under Section 76-5b-201,  
772 sexual exploitation of a minor, or Section 76-5b-201.1, aggravated sexual  
773 exploitation of a minor, regardless of whether the individual who engages in the  
774 conduct is actually charged with, or convicted of, the offense.
- 775 (81) "Shelter" means the temporary care of a child in a physically unrestricted facility  
776 pending a disposition or transfer to another jurisdiction.

- 777 (82) "Shelter facility" means a nonsecure facility that provides shelter for a minor.
- 778 (83) "Significant risk" means a risk of harm that is determined to be significant in  
779 accordance with risk assessment tools and rules established by the Division of Child and  
780 Family Services in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative  
781 Rulemaking Act, that focus on:
- 782 (a) age;
- 783 (b) social factors;
- 784 (c) emotional factors;
- 785 (d) sexual factors;
- 786 (e) intellectual factors;
- 787 (f) family risk factors; and
- 788 (g) other related considerations.
- 789 (84) "Single criminal episode" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-1-401.
- 790 (85) "Status offense" means an offense that would not be an offense but for the age of the  
791 offender.
- 792 (86) "Substance abuse" means, except as provided in Section 80-2-603, the misuse or  
793 excessive use of alcohol or other drugs or substances.
- 794 (87) "Substantiated" or "substantiation" means a judicial finding based on a preponderance  
795 of the evidence, and separate consideration of each allegation made or identified in the  
796 case, that abuse, neglect, or dependency occurred .
- 797 (88) "Substitute care" means:
- 798 (a) the placement of a minor in a family home, group care facility, or other placement  
799 outside the minor's own home, either at the request of a parent or other responsible  
800 relative, or upon court order, when it is determined that continuation of care in the  
801 minor's own home would be contrary to the minor's welfare;
- 802 (b) services provided for a minor in the protective custody of the Division of Child and  
803 Family Services, or a minor in the temporary custody or custody of the Division of  
804 Child and Family Services, as those terms are defined in Section 80-2-102; or
- 805 (c) the licensing and supervision of a substitute care facility.
- 806 (89) "Supported" means a finding by the Division of Child and Family Services based on  
807 the evidence available at the completion of an investigation, and separate consideration  
808 of each allegation made or identified during the investigation, that there is a reasonable  
809 basis to conclude that abuse, neglect, or dependency occurred.
- 810 (90) "Termination of parental rights" means the permanent elimination of all parental rights



and duties, including residual parental rights and duties, by court order.

(91) "Therapist" means:

(a) an individual employed by a state division or agency for the purpose of conducting psychological treatment and counseling of a minor in the division's or agency's custody; or

(b) any other individual licensed or approved by the state for the purpose of conducting psychological treatment and counseling.

(92) "Threatened harm" means actions, inactions, or credible verbal threats, indicating that the child is at an unreasonable risk of harm or neglect.

(93) "Ungovernable" means a child in conflict with a parent or guardian, and the conflict:

(a) results in behavior that is beyond the control or ability of the child, or the parent or guardian, to manage effectively;

(b) poses a threat to the safety or well-being of the child, the child's family, or others; or

(c) results in the situations described in Subsections (93)(a) and (b).

(94) "Unsubstantiated" means a judicial finding that there is insufficient evidence to conclude that abuse, neglect, or dependency occurred.

(95) "Unsupported" means a finding by the Division of Child and Family Services at the completion of an investigation, after the day on which the Division of Child and Family Services concludes the alleged abuse, neglect, or dependency is not without merit, that there is insufficient evidence to conclude that abuse, neglect, or dependency occurred.

(96) "Validated risk and needs assessment" means an evidence-based tool that assesses a minor's risk of reoffending and a minor's criminogenic needs.

(97) "Without merit" means a finding at the completion of an investigation by the Division of Child and Family Services, or a judicial finding, that the alleged abuse, neglect, or dependency did not occur, or that the alleged perpetrator was not responsible for the abuse, neglect, or dependency.

(98) "Youth offender" means an individual who is:

(a) at least 12 years old, but under 21 years old; and

(b) committed by the juvenile court to the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services for secure care under Sections 80-6-703 and 80-6-705.

#### Section 5. **Repealer.**

This bill repeals:

Section **53G-8-302, Prohibition of corporal punishment -- Use of reasonable and necessary physical restraint.**

- 845       Section **53G-8-303, Investigation of complaint -- Confidentiality -- Immunity.**
- 846       Section **53G-8-304, Liability.**
- 847       Section **53G-8-305, Exception.**
- 848       Section 6. **Effective Date.**
- 849       This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.