

1 **Physician Practice Amendments**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers**

House Sponsor:

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3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill addresses physician rights.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

- 8 ▶ defines a term;
- 9 ▶ recognizes a physician's right to refuse to provide a medical service on certain grounds;
- 10 ▶ prohibits taking adverse action against a physician who refuses to provide a medical
- 11 service on certain grounds; and
- 12 ▶ recognizes an adverse action as a basis for a cause of action.

13 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

14 None

15 **Other Special Clauses:**

16 None

17 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

18 ENACTS:

19 **26-4-327**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

22 Section 1. Section **26-4-327** is enacted to read:

23 **26-4-327 . Conscientious objection to provide health care.**

24 (1) As used in this section, "conscientious objection" means a physician's right to refuse to  
 25 provide a medical service on the basis that the medical service conflicts with the  
 26 physician's:

27 (a) medical beliefs;

28 (b) moral beliefs;

29 (c) religious beliefs; or

30 (d) ethical beliefs.

- 31 (2)(a) A physician may exercise a conscientious objection if providing the medical  
32 service would conflict with the physician's medical, moral, religious, or ethical  
33 beliefs.
- 34 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (2)(a), a physician may not exercise a conscientious  
35 objection if exercising the objection would deny the patient access to a medical  
36 service to treat an immediate threat to the patient's health or life.
- 37 (3) No person, whether private or public, including the physician's employer or the Division  
38 of Professional Licensing, may take adverse action against a physician for exercising a  
39 conscientious objection in accordance with this section, including:
- 40 (a) demotion;  
41 (b) denial of a benefit, privilege, promotion, raise, an increased status, or tenure;  
42 (c) discipline;  
43 (d) discrimination;  
44 (e) dismissal;  
45 (f) harassment;  
46 (g) penalty;  
47 (h) prosecution;  
48 (i) refusal to provide a benefit, privilege, promotion, raise, an increased status, or tenure  
49 that the physician would have otherwise received;  
50 (j) retaliation;  
51 (k) suspension;  
52 (l) termination of employment; or  
53 (m) termination of, adverse alteration of, or refusal to renew an association or agreement.
- 54 (4)(a) A physician who is adversely affected by conduct prohibited under Subsection (3)  
55 may bring a civil action in court against a person responsible for the prohibited  
56 conduct.
- 57 (b) A physician described in Subsection (4)(a) is entitled to:  
58 (i) complete relief, for each adverse action under Subsection (3), to the extent the  
59 relief is feasible and practicable, as determined by a court; and  
60 (ii) reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred in an action described in Subsection  
61 (4)(a).

62 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

63 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.