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Pediatric Care Amendments
2026 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Jen Plumb
House Sponsor: Katy Hall

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill enacts provisions related to pediatric care.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- requires hospital emergency departments:
 - to create policies addressing pediatric care;
 - to have a pediatric emergency care coordinator;
 - to conduct pediatric emergency care readiness assessments; and
 - to report assessment results to the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (bureau);
- and
- requires the bureau:
 - to collect data; and
 - to make rules regarding pediatric emergency department safety.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill reallocates \$278,000 ongoing from the General Fund within the Department of Public Safety for a net change of \$0 in fiscal year 2027.

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53-2d-704, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **53-2d-704** is enacted to read:

53-2d-704 . Pediatric readiness.

- 29 (1) As used in this section:
- 30 (a)(i) "Emergency department" means a general acute hospital department that
- 31 provides emergency medical care on a 24-hour basis.
- 32 (ii) "Emergency department" includes a satellite emergency department as that term
- 33 is defined in Section 26B-2-203.
- 34 (b) "General acute hospital" means the same as that term is defined in Section 26B-2-201.
- 35 (c) "Pediatric emergency care coordinator" means an individual designated under
- 36 Subsection (3) to oversee pediatric emergency care policies, procedures, and training.
- 37 (d) "Pediatric readiness assessment" means the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment
- 38 developed by the National Pediatric Readiness Project.
- 39 (2) An emergency department shall:
- 40 (a) develop and implement evidence-based policies and procedures for pediatric patient
- 41 care in the emergency department that address:
- 42 (i) patient triage protocols;
- 43 (ii) measuring and recording vital signs;
- 44 (iii) weighing and recording patient weights in kilograms;
- 45 (iv) calculating medication dosages for pediatric patients;
- 46 (v) proper use of pediatric-specific medical equipment; and
- 47 (vi) age-appropriate care protocols;
- 48 (b) conduct annual training for emergency department staff on the policies and
- 49 procedures developed under Subsection (2)(a), including:
- 50 (i) hands-on training in the use of pediatric equipment through clinical simulation
- 51 appropriate to each staff member's licensure and role; and
- 52 (ii) emergency drill exercises that simulate pediatric emergency situations, conducted
- 53 at least every six months.
- 54 (3)(a) Each emergency department shall designate a pediatric emergency care
- 55 coordinator who is a:
- 56 (i) physician licensed under Title 58, Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act, or Title
- 57 58, Chapter 68, Utah Osteopathic Medical Practice Act;
- 58 (ii) physician assistant licensed under Title 58, Chapter 70a, Utah Physician Assistant
- 59 Act; or
- 60 (iii) registered nurse or advance practice registered nurse licensed under Title 58,
- 61 Chapter 31b, Nurse Practice Act.
- 62 (b) The pediatric emergency care coordinator is responsible for:

- 63 (i) implementing the policies and procedures required under Subsection (2);
- 64 (ii) ensuring compliance with pediatric care standards; and
- 65 (iii) coordinating pediatric emergency care training programs.
- 66 (4)(a) Each emergency department shall conduct a pediatric readiness assessment in
- 67 accordance with the timelines prescribed by the National Pediatric Readiness Project.
- 68 (b) A general acute hospital emergency department may voluntarily conduct the
- 69 National Pediatric Readiness Project's Open Assessment during a year in which the
- 70 pediatric readiness assessment is not conducted.
- 71 (c) Each emergency department shall submit assessment results to the bureau by
- 72 December 31 of the year in which the assessment occurs.
- 73 (5) The bureau shall collect overall assessment scores from pediatric readiness assessments
- 74 conducted by emergency departments under Subsection (4)(a).
- 75 (6) The bureau may publish aggregate data regarding assessment scores.
- 76 (7) The bureau shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
- 77 Administrative Rulemaking Act, that establish minimum standards for pediatric patient
- 78 care in emergency departments, including:
- 79 (a) availability and immediate access to pediatric-specific equipment and supplies;
- 80 (b) staff training requirements;
- 81 (c) quality assurance measures; and
- 82 (d) reporting requirements for assessment results.

83 Section 2. **FY 2027 Appropriations.**

84 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
85 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for
86 fiscal year 2027.

87 Subsection 2(a). **Operating and Capital Budgets**

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

91	ITEM 1	To Department of Public Safety - Programs &; Operations	
92		From General Fund	(278,000)
93		Schedule of Programs:	
94		Emergency Medical Services	(278,000)
95	ITEM 2	To Department of Public Safety - Public Safety Pass-through Grants	
96		From General Fund	278,000

97	Schedule of Programs:	
98	Pediatric Readiness	278,000
99	Under the provisions of Utah Code Annotated	
100	Title 63G, Chapter 6b, State Grants, the Legislature	
101	intends that the Department of Public Safety provide a	
102	direct award grant of \$278,000 from the General Fund in	
103	fiscal year 2027 to the Utah Pediatric Trauma Network	
104	for pediatric readiness as defined in Utah Code	
105	Annotated Section 53-2d-704.	

106 Section 3. **Effective Date.**
107 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.