

SB0118S01 compared with SB0118

~~{Omitted text}~~ shows text that was in SB0118 but was omitted in SB0118S01

inserted text shows text that was not in SB0118 but was inserted into SB0118S01

DISCLAIMER: This document is provided to assist you in your comparison of the two bills. Sometimes this automated comparison will NOT be completely accurate. Therefore, you need to read the actual bills. This automatically generated document could contain inaccuracies caused by: limitations of the compare program; bad input data; or other causes.

1 **Mental Health Services in Higher Education**
2026 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Jen Plumb
House Sponsor:

2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This bill creates the Peer-to-Peer { Counseling Program } Coaching and Mental Health Counseling
5 Grant.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

- 8 ▶ defines terms;
- 9 ▶ creates the Peer-to-Peer { Counseling Program } Coaching and Mental Health Counseling Grant;
- 10 ▶ requires the Utah Board of Higher Education to:
 - 11 • administer the { program } grant;
 - 12 • { approve training};
 - 13 • distribute funds; and
 - 14 • create rules;
 - 15 ▶ requires an institution to:
 - 16 • establish and implement { the } a peer coaching program; or
 - 17 • use the funds for other mental health services for students; { and }

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- requires an institution to approve certain training; and
- exempts a peer coach from liability for an act or failure to act under this section.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

- This bill reallocates as an appropriation a revenue neutral amount of \$1,500,000 from the Income Tax Fund.

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53H-6-302 , Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section 1 is enacted to read:

53H-6-302. Peer-to-Peer { Counseling Program } Coaching and Mental Health Counseling Grant -- Creation -- Purpose.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Grant" means the Peer-to-Peer Coaching and Mental Health Counseling Grant created in Subsection (2).

(a){ (b) }

(i) "Peer coach" means a trained student who volunteers to provide non-clinical, peer-to-peer mental health support to another student.

(ii) "Peer coach" does not mean a licensed mental health professional.

{ (b) { "Program" means the Peer-to-Peer Counseling Program created in Subsection (2). } }

(c) "Student" means an individual enrolled at an institution.

(2) There is created the Peer-to-Peer Coaching and Mental Health Counseling { Program } Grant available to an institution to:

(a) foster positive mental health among students on institution campuses;

(b) enable an institution to provide a student with mental health support from a trained peer { coaches } coach, including the support listed in Subsection (6)(a); and

(c) provide wellness resources to manage personal, academic, and emotional challenges.

(3) The board shall:

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- 43 (a) administer and oversee the {program} grant;
44 {~~(b) {review and approve the training for a peer coach described in Subsection (5)(a);}~~}
- 45 (c){~~(b)~~} create standards for the {program} grant, regarding:
46 (i) the {program's} grant's outcomes and goals;and
47 {(ii) {~~identifying and referring a student in need of professional help to a licensed mental health~~
professional; and} }
- 49 (iii){~~(ii)~~} reporting requirements for {a peer coach} an institution receiving the grant;
50 (d){~~(c)~~} subject to legislative appropriations, distribute grant funds to each {institution to support the
program at the} institution; and
- 52 (e){~~(d)~~} make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to
implement the requirements of this section.
- 54 (4) An institution that receives funds from the board described in Subsection {~~(3)(d)~~} (3)(c) shall:
55 (a) establish and implement {~~the~~} a peer coaching program {~~created in this section~~} ; or
56 (b) use the funds to provide other mental health services to students {~~on~~} enrolled at the {institution's
campus} institution.
- 58 (5) An institution that {~~elects~~} receives grant funds to implement the {program} peer coaching
program described in {~~accordance with~~} Subsection (4)(a) shall:
60 (a) create and provide training to a student that volunteers to become a peer coach; {~~and~~}
61 (b) ensure that a student completes the training before providing support as a peer coach{~~:~~} ; and
62 (c) establish requirements and processes for a peer coach to identify and refer a student in need of
professional help to a licensed mental health professional.
- 62 (6) A peer coach:
63 (a) may provide support to a student through:
64 (i) coaching;
65 (ii) mentoring;
66 (iii) counseling;
67 (iv) assisting with personal, academic, or emotional challenges;
68 (v) accessing campus resources; and
69 (vi) advising the student seek professional care when appropriate; and
70 (b) may not:
71 (i) diagnose a student; or

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- (ii) provide clinical therapy to a student.
- (7) This section does not:
- (a) create a cause of action against a peer coach for an act or failure to act under this section;
- (b) waive governmental immunity in accordance with Section 63G-7-201;
- (c) create or expand liability for an institution; or
- (d) create an employment relationship between a peer coach and an institution.

Section 2. **FY 2027 Appropriations.**

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

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

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

ITEM 1 To Utah Board of Higher Education - Administration

From Income Tax Fund	(1,500,000)
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Schedule of Programs:

Pass Through Funding	(1,500,000)
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ITEM 2 To Utah Board of Higher Education - Student Support

From Income Tax Fund	1,500,000
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Schedule of Programs:

Peer-to-Peer Counseling	1,500,000
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Section 3. **Effective date.**

Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on {~~May 6,~~ July 1, 2026.

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