

# HB0455S01 compared with HB0455

~~{Omitted text}~~ shows text that was in HB0455 but was omitted in HB0455S01

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0455 but was inserted into HB0455S01

**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 **Peace Officer and Dispatcher Standards Amendments**  
2026 GENERAL SESSION  
STATE OF UTAH  
**Chief Sponsor: Matt MacPherson**  
Senate Sponsor:



2  
3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill addresses standards for peace officers and dispatchers.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

8 ▶ allows { ~~the director of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Division, in the director's discretion and under certain circumstances, to allow~~ } a peace officer applicant who has an expunged or dismissed disqualifying criminal offense in certain circumstances to be admitted to a certified academy and to take a peace officer certification examination;

12 ▶ allows { ~~the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, in the commissioner's discretion and under certain circumstances, to allow~~ } a dispatcher applicant who has an expunged or dismissed disqualifying criminal offense in certain circumstances to take a dispatcher certification examination;  
and

16 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

14 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

15 None

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16 **Other Special Clauses:**

17 None

18 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

19 AMENDS:

20 **53-6-203** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 175

21 **53-6-302** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 175, 194

22

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

24 Section 1. Section **53-6-203** is amended to read:

25 **53-6-203. Applicants for admission to training programs or for certification examination --**  
**Requirements.**

30 (1) Before being accepted for admission to the training programs conducted by a certified academy,  
and before being allowed to take a certification examination, each applicant for admission or  
certification examination shall meet the following requirements:

33 (a) be:

34 (i) a United States citizen;

35 (ii) a United States national; or

36 (iii) a lawful permanent resident of the United States who:

37 (A) has been in the United States legally for the five years immediately before the day on which the  
application is made; and

39 (B) has legal authorization to work in the United States;

40 (b) be at least:

41 (i) 19 years old at the time of certification as a special function officer or correctional officer; or

43 (ii) 21 years old at the time of certification as a law enforcement officer;

44 (c) be a high school graduate or furnish evidence of successful completion of an examination indicating  
an equivalent achievement;

46 (d) ~~[have not been convicted of a crime]~~ except as provided in Subsection (3), not have a conviction for  
a criminal offense for which the applicant could have been punished by imprisonment in a federal  
penitentiary or by imprisonment in the penitentiary of this or another state, including a conviction  
that has been expunged or dismissed, or treated in a similar manner to expungement or dismissal;

51 (e) have demonstrated good moral character, as determined by a background investigation;

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- 53 (f) be free of any physical, emotional, or mental condition that might adversely affect the performance  
of the applicant's duties as a peace officer; and
- 55 (g) meet all other standards required by POST.
- 56 (2)
- (a) An application for admission to a training program shall be accompanied by a criminal history  
background check of local, state, and national criminal history files and a background investigation.
- 59 (b) The costs of the background check and investigation shall be borne by the applicant or the  
applicant's employing agency.
- 61 [~~(3)~~]
- (a) ~~Notwithstanding any expungement statute or rule of any other jurisdiction, any conviction obtained  
in this state or other jurisdiction, including a conviction that has been expunged, dismissed, or  
treated in a similar manner to either of these procedures, may be considered for purposes of this  
section.]~~
- 65 (3)
- (a) An applicant who has been convicted of a criminal offense for which the applicant could have been  
punished by imprisonment in a federal penitentiary or by imprisonment in the penitentiary of this  
state or another state may be accepted for admission to a training program conducted by a certified  
academy and allowed to take a certification examination if:
- 70 (i) the conviction for the criminal offense has been expunged or dismissed, or treated in a similar  
manner to expungement or dismissal;
- 72 (ii) the applicant:
- 73 (A) is not a restricted person under Section 76-11-302, Section 76-11-303, or federal law; and
- 75 (B) may lawfully possess dangerous weapons;
- 76 (iii) the criminal offense for which the applicant was convicted was not { a violent felony as that  
term is defined in Section 76-3-203.5; } .
- 74 (A) a violent felony as that term is defined in Section 76-3-203.5; or
- 75 (B) a felony offense described in Title 76, Chapter 5, Part 4, Sexual Offenses;
- 78 (iv) at least 10 years have passed since the day on which the applicant was convicted of the criminal  
offense and the applicant has not been convicted of another criminal offense, not including a  
traffic offense that is a class C misdemeanor or infraction;and
- 82 (v) the applicant meets all other applicable requirements under this section { ; and } .

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- 81 (b) [
- 83 (vi) {~~the director, in the director's discretion, has approved the applicant to be accepted for admission to the certified academy and allowed to take the certification examination.~~}  
{~~A decision by the director under Subsection (3)(a)(vi) is final and may not be appealed.~~}
- 88 ~~{(b)}(e)~~ [ ] This ~~provision~~] This Subsection (3) applies to convictions entered both before and after the effective date of this section.
- 90 (4) Any background check or background investigation performed under the requirements of this section shall be to determine eligibility for admission to training programs or qualification for certification examinations and may not be used as a replacement for any background investigations that may be required of an employing agency.
- 94 (5) An applicant shall be considered to be of good moral character under Subsection (1)(e) if the applicant has not engaged in conduct that would be a violation of Subsection 53-6-211(1).
- 97 (6) An applicant seeking certification as a law enforcement officer, as defined in Section 53-13-103, shall be qualified to possess a firearm under state and federal law.
- 92 Section 2. Section **53-6-302** is amended to read:
- 93 **53-6-302. Applicants for certification examination -- Requirements.**
- 101 (1) Before being allowed to take a dispatcher certification examination, each applicant shall meet the following requirements:
- 103 (a) be:
- 104 (i) a United States citizen;
- 105 (ii) a United States national; or
- 106 (iii) a lawful permanent resident of the United States who:
- 107 (A) has been in the United States legally for the five years immediately before the day on which the application is made; and
- 109 (B) has legal authorization to work in the United States;
- 110 (b) be 18 years old or older at the time of employment as a dispatcher;
- 111 (c) be a high school graduate or have a G.E.D. equivalent;
- 112 (d) ~~[have not been convicted of a crime]~~ except as provided in Subsection (3), not have a conviction for a criminal offense for which the applicant could have been punished by imprisonment in a federal penitentiary or by imprisonment in the penitentiary of this or another state, including a conviction that has been expunged, dismissed, or treated in a similar manner to expungement or dismissal;

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- 117 (e) have demonstrated good moral character, as determined by a background investigation;
- 119 (f) be free of any physical, emotional, or mental condition that might adversely affect the performance  
of the applicant's duty as a dispatcher; and
- 121 (g) meet all other standards required by POST.
- 122 (2)
- (a) An application for certification shall be accompanied by a criminal history background check of  
local, state, and national criminal history files and a background investigation.
- 125 (b) The costs of the background check and investigation shall be borne by the applicant or the  
applicant's employing agency.
- 127 ~~(3)~~
- ~~(a) Notwithstanding Title 77, Chapter 40a, Expungement of Criminal Records, regarding  
expungements, or a similar statute or rule of any other jurisdiction, any conviction obtained in this  
state or other jurisdiction, including a conviction that has been expunged, dismissed, or treated in a  
similar manner to either of these procedures, may be considered for purposes of this section.]~~
- 132 (3)
- (a) An applicant who has been convicted of a criminal offense for which the applicant could have been  
punished by imprisonment in a federal penitentiary or by imprisonment in the penitentiary of this  
state or another state may be allowed to take a dispatcher certification examination if:
- 136 (i) the conviction for the criminal offense has been expunged or dismissed, or treated in a similar  
manner to expungement or dismissal;
- 138 (ii) the applicant is not a restricted person under Section 76-11-302, Section 76-11-303, or federal  
law;
- 140 (iii) the criminal offense for which the applicant was convicted was not {~~a violent felony as that  
term is defined in Section 76-3-203.5;~~ } :
- 134 (A) a violent felony as that term is defined in Section 76-3-203.5; or
- 135 (B) a felony offense described in Title 76, Chapter 5, Part 4, Sexual Offenses;
- 142 (iv) at least 10 years have passed since the day on which the applicant was convicted of the criminal  
offense and the applicant has not been convicted of another criminal offense, not including a  
traffic offense that is a class C misdemeanor or infraction;and
- 146 (v) the applicant meets all other applicable requirements under this section{~~;~~and} :
- 141 (b) [

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147           (vi) ~~{ the commissioner, in the commissioner's discretion, has approved the applicant to take the~~  
                  ~~dispatcher certification examination. }~~

~~{ A decision by the commissioner under Subsection (3)(a)(vi) is final and may not be appealed. }~~

151   ~~{(b)}(e) { }~~ Subsection (3)(a) applies to convictions entered both before and after May 1, 1995] This  
                  Subsection (3) applies to any conviction regardless of the date when the conviction was entered.

154   (4) Any background check or background investigation performed under the requirements of this  
          section shall be to determine eligibility for admission to training programs or qualification for  
          certification examinations and may not be used as a replacement for any background investigations  
          that may be required of an employing agency.

158   (5) An applicant is considered to be of good moral character under Subsection (1)(e) if the applicant has  
          not engaged in conduct that would be a violation of Subsection 53-6-309(1).

150           Section 3. **Effective date.**

                  Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.

2-10-26 2:35 PM