

Doug Owens proposes the following substitute bill:

Organ Donation Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Doug Owens

Senate Sponsor: Calvin R. Musselman

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses public awareness of organ donation and opportunities for individuals to register as organ donors.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- requires or encourages information about the option and process to register as an organ donor, to be provided in connection with or in certain circumstances related to:
 - the Division of Wildlife Resources' website;
 - a health care facility; and
 - individual income tax instructions booklets and the State Tax Commission's website;
- requires the Department of Health and Human Services to convene a coalition of life-saving programs and create a comprehensive plan for communicating about those programs through state-owned channels; and
- make technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

59-10-103.1, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 344

ENACTS:

23A-1-207, Utah Code Annotated 1953

26B-1-436, Utah Code Annotated 1953

26B-2-244, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

31 Section 1. Section **23A-1-207** is enacted to read:

32 **23A-1-207 . Organ donation.**

33 (1) As used in this section:

34 (a) "Donor" means the same as that term is defined in Section 26B-8-301.

35 (b) "Donor registry" means the same as that term is defined in Section 26B-8-301.

36 (2) On the division's website, the division shall provide:

37 (a) information about the option to register as a donor; and

38 (b) a link to a website for a donor registry where an individual can register as a donor.

39 (3) The requirements in Subsection (2) do not apply if the division provides information on
40 the division's website in connection with a comprehensive plan described in Section
41 26B-1-436.

42 Section 2. Section **26B-1-436** is enacted to read:

43 **26B-1-436 . Life-saving programs, coalition, and plan.**

44 (1) As used in this section:

45 (a) "Comprehensive plan" means a comprehensive plan described in Subsection (3).

46 (b) "Director" means an executive director, director, commissioner, general manager, or
47 other similar position that has ultimate responsibility for the operation of a state
48 entity.

49 (c) "Life-saving program" means a program or initiative intended to prevent the
50 imminent loss of human life through:

51 (i) emergency response awareness;

52 (ii) medical or public safety education; or

53 (iii) providing time-sensitive safety information to the public.

54 (d) "State publication channel" means a website or publication of a state entity that:

55 (i) the public accesses, uses, or interacts with in significant volume; and

56 (ii) is approved for use in connection with a comprehensive plan by the director, or
57 the director's designee, of the state entity that controls the website or publication.

58 (2) To maximize the opportunity to save lives in the state, the department shall convene a
59 coalition of state-funded and state-sponsored life-saving programs.

60 (3) The department shall create a comprehensive plan, including best practices and
61 principles, for utilizing state publication channels to communicate information about
62 life-saving programs to the public.

63 (4) The comprehensive plan may include a schedule coordinating when each life-saving

64 program is promoted through state publication channels, which may also coordinate with
65 promotional periods or commemorative periods declared by the governor, and may
66 address the allocation of costs.

67 Section 3. Section **26B-2-244** is enacted to read:

68 **26B-2-244 . Organ donation.**

69 (1) As used in this section:

70 (a) "Donor" means the same as that term is defined in Section 26B-8-301.

71 (b) "Donor registry" means the same as that term is defined in Section 26B-8-301.

72 (2) A health care facility licensed under this part shall provide information to a patient
73 about how to access a donor registry established under Section 26B-8-319 prior to
74 discharge.

75 Section 4. Section **59-10-103.1** is amended to read:

76 **59-10-103.1 . Information to be contained on individual income tax returns or**
77 **booklets.**

78 (1) The commission shall print the phrase "all state income tax dollars support education,
79 children, and individuals with disabilities" on:

80 (a) the first page of an individual income tax return; and

81 (b) the cover page of an individual income tax forms and instructions booklet.

82 (2) The commission shall include on an individual income tax return a statement for a
83 property owner to declare that the property owner no longer qualifies to receive a
84 residential exemption authorized under Section 59-2-103 for that property owner's
85 primary residence.

86 (3)(a) The commission shall include in each instruction booklet information about the
87 option to register as a donor, as that term is defined in Section 26B-8-301, and
88 instructions for accessing a donor registry established under Section 26B-8-319.

89 (b) The commission shall include on the commission's website information about the
90 option to register as a donor, as that term is defined in Section 26B-8-301, and a link
91 to a website for a donor registry established under Section 26B-8-319.

92 (c) The requirements in Subsections (3)(a) and (b) do not apply if the commission
93 provides information in each instruction booklet and on the commission's website in
94 connection with a comprehensive plan described in Section 26B-1-436.

95 Section 5. **Effective Date.**

96 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.