

John Arthur proposes the following substitute bill:

Landscaper Certification Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: John Arthur

Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions relating to landscape work.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- requires that the Division of Professional Licensing identify a specialty contractor that may engage in landscape work;
- provides continuing education requirements for a licensee that engages in landscape work;
- coordinates the provisions this bill enacts with the provisions of H.B. 40, Utah Construction Trades Licensing Act Amendments; and
- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a coordination clause.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

58-55-302.5, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 201

Utah Code Sections affected by Coordination Clause:

58-55-204, as as enacted by H.B. 40 (2026)

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

Section 1. Section **58-55-302.5** is amended to read:

58-55-302.5 . Continuing education requirements for contractor licensees --

Continuing education courses.

(1)(a) [~~Each~~] A contractor licensee under a license issued under this chapter shall

- 29 complete six hours of approved continuing education during each two-year renewal
30 cycle established by rule under Subsection 58-55-303(1).
- 31 (b) [Each] A contractor licensee who has a renewal cycle that ends on or after January 1,
32 2020, may complete one hour of approved continuing education on energy
33 conservation as part of the six required hours.
- 34 (2)(a) The commission shall, with the concurrence of the division, establish by rule
35 made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
36 a program of approved continuing education for contractor licensees.
- 37 (b) Except as provided in Subsections (2)(c) and (e), only courses offered by any of the
38 following may be included in the program of approved continuing education for
39 contractor licensees:
- 40 (i) the Associated General Contractors of Utah;
 - 41 (ii) Associated Builders and Contractors, Utah Chapter;
 - 42 (iii) the Utah Home Builders Association;
 - 43 (iv) the National Electrical Contractors Association Intermountain Chapter;
 - 44 (v) the Utah Plumbing & Heating Contractors Association;
 - 45 (vi) the Independent Electrical Contractors of Utah;
 - 46 (vii) the Rocky Mountain Gas Association;
 - 47 (viii) the Utah Mechanical Contractors Association;
 - 48 (ix) the Sheet Metal Contractors Association;
 - 49 (x) the Intermountain Electrical Association;
 - 50 (xi) the American Subcontractors Association, Utah Chapter; or
 - 51 (xii) Utah Roofing Contractors Association.
- 52 (c) An approved continuing education program for a contractor licensee may include a
53 course approved by an entity described in Subsections (2)(b)(i) through (2)(b)(iii).
- 54 (d)(i) Except as provided in Subsections (2)(d)(ii) and (iii), an entity listed in
55 Subsections (2)(b)(iv) through (2)(b)(xii) may only offer and market continuing
56 education courses to a licensee who is a member of the entity.
- 57 (ii) An entity described in Subsection (2)(b)(iv), (vi), or (x) may offer and market a
58 continuing education course that the entity offers to satisfy the continuing
59 education requirement described in Subsection 58-55-302.7(2)(a) to a contractor
60 in the electrical trade.
 - 61 (iii) An entity described in Subsection (2)(b)(v) or (viii) may offer and market a
62 continuing education course that the entity offers to satisfy:

- 63 (A) the continuing education requirement described in Subsection
 64 58-55-302.7(2)(b) to a contractor in the plumbing trade; or
 65 (B) the continuing education requirement described in Subsection (1) for a
 66 contractor licensee that is licensed in the specialty contractor classification of
 67 HVAC contractor.
- 68 (e) An approved continuing education program for a contractor licensee may include a
 69 course offered and taught by:
 70 (i) a state executive branch agency;
 71 (ii) the workers' compensation insurance carrier that provides workers' compensation
 72 insurance under Section 31A-22-1001; or
 73 (iii) a nationally or regionally accredited college or university that has a physical
 74 campus in the state.
- 75 (f) For a contractor licensee that is licensed in the specialty contractor classification of
 76 HVAC contractor, at least three of the six hours described in Subsection (1) shall
 77 include continuing education directly related to the installation, repair, or
 78 replacement of a heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system.
- 79 (3)(a) The division shall identify a specialty contractor under this section that primarily
 80 engages in landscape work.
- 81 (b) During each two-year renewal cycle, at least one of the six hours of continuing
 82 education described in Subsection (1) that a specialty contractor described in
 83 Subsection (3)(a) completes shall cover the following topics:
 84 (i) water conservation landscaping principles, including:
 85 (A) understanding water scarcity in this state;
 86 (B) selecting drought tolerant plants that are native to this state;
 87 (C) efficient irrigation design; and
 88 (D) soil amendment techniques for soil retention; or
 89 (ii) fire risk management landscaping principles, including:
 90 (A) designing a landscape to prevent the spread of fire; and
 91 (B) incorporating rocks, concrete, and other materials to prevent the spread of fire.
- 92 ~~(3)~~ (4) The division may contract with a person to establish and maintain a continuing
 93 education registry to include:
 94 (a) a list of courses that the division has approved for inclusion in the program of
 95 approved continuing education; and
 96 (b) a list of courses that:

- 97 (i) a contractor licensee has completed under the program of approved continuing
- 98 education; and
- 99 (ii) the licensee may access to monitor the licensee's compliance with the continuing
- 100 education requirement established under Subsection (1).

101 [~~(4)~~] (5) The division may charge a fee, as established by the division under Section

102 63J-1-504, to administer the requirements of this section.

103 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

104 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.

105 Section 3. **Coordinating H.B. 313 with H.B. 40.**

106 If H.B. 313, Landscaper Certification Amendments, and H.B. 40, Utah Construction

107 Trades Licensing Act Amendments, both pass and become law, the Legislature intends that, on

108 January 1, 2027:

109 (1) Subsection 58-55-302.5(3) enacted in H.B. 313 be inserted as Subsection 58-55-204(3)

110 in H.B. 40; and

111 (2) Subsections 58-55-204(3) and (4) enacted in H.B. 40 be renumbered as Subsections

112 58-55-204(4) and (5) respectively.