

Logan J. Monson proposes the following substitute bill:

Educator Organization Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Logan J. Monson

Senate Sponsor: Heidi Balderree

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates the Legislative Education Support and Professional Development Commission.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- creates the Legislative Education Support and Professional Development Commission (commission);
- outlines the commission's membership;
- establishes the commission's duties;
- requires the commission to submit a report with recommendations;
- provides for staffing and administrative support; and
- establishes a repeal date for the commission.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

63I-1-236, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 320, 506 and 507

ENACTS:

36-36-101, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36-36-102, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36-36-103, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

30 Section 1. Section **36-36-101** is enacted to read:

31 **CHAPTER 36. Legislative Education Support and Professional Development**

32 **Commission**

33 **36-36-101 . Definitions.**

34 (1) "Commission" means the Legislative Education Support and Professional Development
35 Commission.

36 (2) "LEA" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53E-1-102.

37 Section 2. Section **36-36-102** is enacted to read:

38 **36-36-102 . Legislative Education Support and Professional Development**

39 **Commission created -- Membership -- Terms.**

40 (1) There is created the Legislative Education Support and Professional Development
41 Commission to:

42 (a) study gaps in communication, coordination, and support among the state board, the
43 Legislature, LEAs, and individual educators;

44 (b) evaluate professional development and support services available to educators
45 outside of existing membership-based organizations;

46 (c) assess opportunities for innovation in educator recognition, professional
47 advancement, and accountability; and

48 (d) make recommendations to the Education Interim Committee regarding legislative
49 solutions to address the issues described in Subsections (1)(a) through (c).

50 (2) The commission membership shall include:

51 (a) three members of the Senate, whom the president of the Senate appoints, with at least
52 one from each political party;

53 (b) three members of the House of Representatives, whom the speaker of the House of
54 Representatives appoints, with at least one from each political party;

55 (c) the state superintendent or the state superintendent's designee;

56 (d) one member of the State Board of Education, whom the chair of the State Board of
57 Education appoints;

58 (e) one member who is a superintendent of a school district, whom the Utah School
59 Superintendents Association appoints;

60 (f) one member who is a director of a charter school, whom the chair of the State Board

- 61 of Education appoints;
- 62 (g) two members who are currently employed as teachers in the state, whom the
- 63 president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives jointly
- 64 appoint;
- 65 (h) one member who is a member of a local school board, whom the Utah School
- 66 Boards Association appoints;
- 67 (i) the director of the Division of Risk Management or the director's designee; and
- 68 (j) one member with expertise in educator professional development or educator
- 69 professional organizations, whom the president of the Senate and the speaker of the
- 70 House of Representatives jointly appoint.
- 71 (3) The president of the Senate shall designate one member of the Senate appointed under
- 72 Subsection (2)(a) to serve as a cochair of the commission.
- 73 (4) The speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one member of the House
- 74 of Representatives appointed under Subsection (2)(b) to serve as a cochair of the
- 75 commission.
- 76 (5)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(b), a member of the commission described
- 77 in Subsection (2) shall serve a term that ends on the commission's repeal date
- 78 described in Section 63I-1-236.
- 79 (b) When a vacancy occurs in the commission membership for any reason, the
- 80 appointing authority for the vacant position shall appoint a replacement for the
- 81 unexpired term within 30 days after the day on which the vacancy occurs.
- 82 (6) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall provide staff support to
- 83 the commission.
- 84 Section 3. Section **36-36-103** is enacted to read:
- 85 **36-36-103 . Duties and powers of commission -- Quorum -- Compensation.**
- 86 (1) The commission shall:
- 87 (a) hold the commission's first meeting before October 1, 2026;
- 88 (b) study the issues described in Subsections 36-36-102(1)(a) through (d);
- 89 (c) examine gaps in communication, coordination, and support among the state board,
- 90 the Legislature, LEAs, and individual educators, including:
- 91 (i) current mechanisms for educators to communicate concerns, ideas, and feedback
- 92 to:
- 93 (A) the State Board of Education;
- 94 (B) the state superintendent;

- 95 (C) legislative committees; and
96 (D) local school boards and LEA administration;
97 (ii) barriers that prevent effective communication between the entities described in
98 Subsection (1)(c)(i);
99 (iii) the frequency and effectiveness of current communication channels;
100 (iv) whether educators feel adequately represented in education policy decisions at
101 the state and local level; and
102 (v) best practices from other states for facilitating educator input in policy
103 development;
104 (d) examine professional development and support services available to educators,
105 including:
106 (i) current professional development opportunities provided by:
107 (A) the state board;
108 (B) LEAs;
109 (C) institutions of higher education;
110 (D) professional organizations; and
111 (E) private providers;
112 (ii) gaps in professional development services, particularly for educators who are not
113 members of professional organizations;
114 (iii) teacher leadership and advancement opportunities outside of administrative
115 positions;
116 (iv) mentorship and peer support programs for early-career and experienced
117 educators;
118 (v) innovative professional development models from other states or sectors; and
119 (vi) potential state-supported professional development programs or networks;
120 (e) examine educator recognition, accountability, and innovation, including:
121 (i) current programs that recognize and reward effective teaching and innovative
122 classroom practices;
123 (ii) gaps in recognition and incentive systems for educators;
124 (iii) measures of teacher effectiveness beyond student test scores;
125 (iv) opportunities to promote innovation and experimentation in instructional
126 methods;
127 (v) accountability mechanisms that focus on student growth and professional
128 excellence; and

- 129 (vi) potential state-supported programs for educator recognition or grants for
130 classroom innovation;
- 131 (f) consult with:
- 132 (i) the State Board of Education;
133 (ii) representatives of LEAs;
134 (iii) teachers who are members of professional organizations and teachers who are
135 not members of professional organizations;
136 (iv) representatives of educator professional development organizations; and
137 (v) other stakeholders the commission cochairs determine are relevant to the
138 commission's work;
- 139 (g) identify potential state resources, programs, or agencies that could provide or
140 coordinate services to support educators;
- 141 (h) identify statutory or regulatory changes needed to implement the commission's
142 recommendations; and
- 143 (i) before November 1, 2027, submit a written report to the Education Interim
144 Committee that includes:
- 145 (i) the commission's findings;
146 (ii) recommendations for legislative action; and
147 (iii) any proposed legislation the commission develops.
- 148 (2) The commission may:
- 149 (a) meet as often as the commission cochairs determine is necessary to fulfill the
150 commission's duties;
- 151 (b) establish subcommittees to study specific issues related to the commission's duties;
152 and
- 153 (c) request information, data, or assistance from:
- 154 (i) the State Board of Education;
155 (ii) the state superintendent;
156 (iii) LEAs;
157 (iv) the Division of Risk Management;
158 (v) the Utah Education and Telehealth Network; and
159 (vi) other state agencies or entities the commission determines are relevant.
- 160 (3)(a) A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum.
- 161 (b) The commission shall take an action by majority vote of a quorum of the
162 commission.

- 163 (4)(a) A member of the commission who is a legislator shall receive compensation and
164 expenses in accordance with Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5,
165 Legislative Compensation and Expenses.
- 166 (b) A member of the commission who is not a legislator and who is an employee of the
167 state may not receive compensation in addition to the member's regular state
168 compensation for the member's service on the commission.
- 169 (c) A member of the commission who is not a legislator and who is not an employee of
170 the state may receive:
- 171 (i) per diem compensation at the rate established by the Division of Finance under
172 Section 63A-3-107 for each day the member attends a meeting of the commission;
173 and
- 174 (ii) reimbursement for travel expenses incurred in attending a meeting of the
175 commission at the rates established by the Division of Finance under Section
176 63A-3-107 and rules made by the Division of Finance under Sections 63A-3-106
177 and 63A-3-107.

178 Section 4. Section **63I-1-236** is amended to read:

179 **63I-1-236 . Repeal dates: Title 36.**

- 180 (1) Title 36, Chapter 17, Legislative Process Committee, is repealed January 1, 2028.
- 181 (2) Section 36-29-111, Public Safety Data Management Task Force, is repealed July 1,
182 2029.
- 183 (3) Title 36, Chapter 28, Veterans and Military Affairs Commission, is repealed January 1,
184 2030.
- 185 (4) Section 36-29-112, Justice Court Reform Task Force, is repealed July 1, 2025.
- 186 (5) Title 36, Chapter 36, Legislative Education Support and Professional Development
187 Commission, is repealed March 15, 2028.

188 Section 5. **Effective Date.**

189 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.