

School Athlete Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jon Hawkins

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill prohibits a public school from participating in an activities association that imposes periods of ineligibility on certain students.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- prohibits a public school from participating in an activities association that imposes periods of ineligibility on students who transfer due to open enrollment, school choice, or bullying; and

- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53G-7-1102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 408

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

Section 1. Section **53G-7-1102** is amended to read:

53G-7-1102 . Public schools prohibited from membership.

(1) A public school may not be a member of or pay dues to an association that:

(a) is not in compliance with:

(i) this part;

(ii) Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings Act;

(iii) Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act; and

(iv) Title 67, Chapter 16, Utah Public Officers' and Employees' Ethics Act;

(b) does not collect each student's unamended birth certificate, as that term is defined in

31 Section 53G-6-1001, or subject to Subsection (3), equivalent documentation, as
32 described in Subsection (2)(a), to determine eligibility as a condition of the
33 association's registration process for an athletic team, event, or category;~~[-or]~~
34 (c) does not require a student to provide the student's date of birth and sex as a condition
35 of the registration process for an athletic team, event, or category~~[-]~~ ; or

36 (d) imposes a period of ineligibility on a student who:

37 (i) transfers schools consistent with open enrollment or school choice; or

38 (ii) establishes that the student has been a victim of bullying at the sending school
39 before transferring, documented through hearings or parent-submitted evidence,
40 regardless of whether the sending school certifies that the student has been a
41 victim of bullying.

42 (2)(a) For a student who is not a United States citizen and who is unable to provide an
43 unamended birth certificate, as that term is defined in Section 53G-6-1001, the
44 association may collect the student's:

45 (i) state-issued identification document, including a driver's license or passport; or

46 (ii) federally recognized identification document, including a document that the
47 Department of Homeland Security issues.

48 (b) If a student who is not a United States citizen is unable to provide a document under
49 Subsection (2)(a), the association may collect other reliable proof of a student's date
50 of birth and sex, including:

51 (i) an affidavit from the student's parent or legal guardian attesting:

52 (A) to the student's date of birth and sex; and

53 (B) that the parent or legal guardian is unable to obtain a document described in
54 Subsection (2)(a); and

55 (ii) one of the following:

56 (A) a religious, hospital, or physician certificate;

57 (B) verified school records;

58 (C) verified immunization records; or

59 (D) documentation from a social service provider.

60 (3)(a) Subsection (1)(b) does not apply to an association for a student who is a homeless
61 child or youth, as defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42
62 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 et seq.

63 (b) For a student who is a homeless child or youth, including an unaccompanied
64 homeless child or youth, an association may collect:

(i) an affidavit from the student's parent or guardian, or the student if the student is an unaccompanied homeless child or youth, indicating that the student does not meet the necessary requirements to obtain a document described in Subsection (2)(a); and

(ii) a document described in Subsection (2)(b)(ii).

(4) Nothing in this section limits or impairs an LEA's requirement to verify a student's initial review of eligibility to participate in an athletic team, event, or category under applicable state or federal law or state board rule, including the student's:

(a) residency status;

(b) age;

(c) sex, verified by the student's unamended birth certificate, as that term is defined in Section 53G-6-1001;

(d) academic requirements; or

(e) school enrollment capacity.

(5) Unless otherwise specified, an association's compliance with or an association employee or officer's compliance with the provisions described in Subsection (1) does not alter:

(a) the association's public or private status; or

(b) the public or private employment status of the employee or officer.

Section 2. Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.