

Jon Hawkins proposes the following substitute bill:

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 or school choice under certain circumstances, moving, or bullying; or
 - allows a student to receive compensation for participating in the student's interscholastic activity; 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;

- 30 (iii) Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act; and
31 (iv) Title 67, Chapter 16, Utah Public Officers' and Employees' Ethics Act;
- 32 (b) does not collect each student's unamended birth certificate, as that term is defined in
33 Section 53G-6-1001, or subject to Subsection (3), equivalent documentation, as
34 described in Subsection (2)(a), to determine eligibility as a condition of the
35 association's registration process for an athletic team, event, or category;[-øø]
- 36 (c) does not require a student to provide the student's date of birth and sex as a condition
37 of the registration process for an athletic team, event, or category[-:] ;
- 38 (d) imposes a period of ineligibility on a student who:
- 39 (i) for a first time in the student's high school grades, transfers schools consistent with
40 open enrollment or school choice;
- 41 (ii) enrolls in a school after moving the student's primary residence into the
42 geographic boundaries of the school; or
- 43 (iii) establishes that the student has been a victim of bullying, as that term is defined
44 in Section 53G-9-601, at the sending school before transferring, documented
45 through hearings or parent-submitted evidence, regardless of whether the sending
46 school certifies that the student has been a victim of bullying; or
- 47 (e) allows a student to receive compensation for participating in the student's
48 interscholastic activity.
- 49 (2)(a) For a student who is not a United States citizen and who is unable to provide an
50 unamended birth certificate, as that term is defined in Section 53G-6-1001, the
51 association may collect the student's:
- 52 (i) state-issued identification document, including a driver's license or passport; or
53 (ii) federally recognized identification document, including a document that the
54 Department of Homeland Security issues.
- 55 (b) If a student who is not a United States citizen is unable to provide a document under
56 Subsection (2)(a), the association may collect other reliable proof of a student's date
57 of birth and sex, including:
- 58 (i) an affidavit from the student's parent or legal guardian attesting:
- 59 (A) to the student's date of birth and sex; and
60 (B) that the parent or legal guardian is unable to obtain a document described in
61 Subsection (2)(a); and
- 62 (ii) one of the following:
- 63 (A) a religious, hospital, or physician certificate;

- 64 (B) verified school records;
- 65 (C) verified immunization records; or
- 66 (D) documentation from a social service provider.
- 67 (3)(a) Subsection (1)(b) does not apply to an association for a student who is a homeless
- 68 child or youth, as defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42
- 69 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 et seq.
- 70 (b) For a student who is a homeless child or youth, including an unaccompanied
- 71 homeless child or youth, an association may collect:
- 72 (i) an affidavit from the student's parent or guardian, or the student if the student is an
- 73 unaccompanied homeless child or youth, indicating that the student does not meet
- 74 the necessary requirements to obtain a document described in Subsection (2)(a);
- 75 and
- 76 (ii) a document described in Subsection (2)(b)(ii).
- 77 (4) Nothing in this section limits or impairs an LEA's requirement to verify a student's
- 78 initial review of eligibility to participate in an athletic team, event, or category under
- 79 applicable state or federal law or state board rule, including the student's:
- 80 (a) residency status;
- 81 (b) age;
- 82 (c) sex, verified by the student's unamended birth certificate, as that term is defined in
- 83 Section 53G-6-1001;
- 84 (d) academic requirements; or
- 85 (e) school enrollment capacity.
- 86 (5) Unless otherwise specified, an association's compliance with or an association employee
- 87 or officer's compliance with the provisions described in Subsection (1) does not alter:
- 88 (a) the association's public or private status; or
- 89 (b) the public or private employment status of the employee or officer.

90 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

91 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.