

Brady Brammer proposes the following substitute bill:

**Juvenile Justice and Youth Services Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Tiara Auxier**

Senate Sponsor: Brady Brammer

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies provisions related to the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- requires the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services to report certain information to the Judiciary Interim Committee; and
- provides a repeal date.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**63I-2-280**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 5

**80-5-201**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 291

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

Section 1. Section **63I-2-280** is amended to read:

**63I-2-280 . Repeal dates: Title 80.**

[Reserved.] Subsection 80-5-201(6), regarding a requirement for the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services to report to the Judiciary Interim Committee, is repealed January 1, 2027.

Section 2. Section **80-5-201** is amended to read:

**CHAPTER 5. Juvenile Justice and Youth Services**

**80-5-201 . Division responsibilities.**

- 29 (1) The division is responsible for all minors committed to the division by juvenile courts  
30 under Sections 80-6-703 and 80-6-705.
- 31 (2) The division shall:
- 32 (a) establish and administer a continuum of community, secure, and nonsecure programs  
33 for all minors committed to the division;
- 34 (b) establish and maintain all detention and secure care facilities and set minimum  
35 standards for all detention and secure care facilities;
- 36 (c) establish and operate prevention and early intervention youth services programs for  
37 nonadjudicated minors placed with the division;
- 38 (d) establish observation and assessment programs necessary to serve minors in a  
39 nonresidential setting under Subsection 80-6-706(1);
- 40 (e) place minors committed to the division under Section 80-6-703 in the most  
41 appropriate program for supervision and treatment;
- 42 (f) employ staff necessary to:
- 43 (i) supervise and control minors committed to the division for secure care or  
44 placement in the community;
- 45 (ii) supervise and coordinate treatment of minors committed to the division for  
46 placement in community-based programs; and
- 47 (iii) control and supervise adjudicated and nonadjudicated minors placed with the  
48 division for temporary services in juvenile receiving centers, youth services, and  
49 other programs established by the division;
- 50 (g) control or detain a minor committed to the division, or in the temporary custody of  
51 the division, in a manner that is consistent with public safety and rules made by the  
52 division;
- 53 (h) establish and operate work programs for minors committed to the division by the  
54 juvenile court that:
- 55 (i) are not residential;
- 56 (ii) provide labor to help in the operation, repair, and maintenance of public facilities,  
57 parks, highways, and other programs designated by the division;
- 58 (iii) provide educational and prevocational programs in cooperation with the State  
59 Board of Education for minors placed in the program; and
- 60 (iv) provide counseling to minors;
- 61 (i) establish minimum standards for the operation of all private residential and  
62 nonresidential rehabilitation facilities that provide services to minors who have

- 63 committed an offense in this state or in any other state;
- 64 (j) provide regular training for secure care staff, detention staff, case management staff,  
65 and staff of the community-based programs;
- 66 (k) designate employees to obtain the saliva DNA specimens required under Section  
67 53-10-403;
- 68 (l) ensure that the designated employees receive appropriate training and that the  
69 specimens are obtained in accordance with accepted protocol;
- 70 (m) register an individual with the Department of Public Safety who:
- 71 (i) is adjudicated for an offense that would result in the individual being a child abuse  
72 offender under Subsection 53-29-202(2)(a) or a sex offender under Subsection  
73 53-29-202(2)(b);
- 74 (ii) is committed to the division for secure care; and
- 75 (iii)(A) if the individual is a youth offender, remains in the division's custody 30  
76 days before the individual's 21st birthday; or
- 77 (B) if the individual is a serious youth offender, remains in the division's custody  
78 30 days before the individual's 25th birthday; and
- 79 (n) ensure that a program delivered to a minor under this section is an evidence-based  
80 program in accordance with Section 63M-7-208.
- 81 (3)(a) The division is authorized to employ special function officers, as defined in  
82 Section 53-13-105, to:
- 83 (i) locate and apprehend minors who have absconded from division custody;
- 84 (ii) transport minors taken into custody in accordance with division policy;
- 85 (iii) investigate cases; and
- 86 (iv) carry out other duties as assigned by the division.
- 87 (b) A special function officer may be:
- 88 (i) employed through a contract with the Department of Public Safety, or any law  
89 enforcement agency certified by the Peace Officer Standards and Training  
90 Division; or
- 91 (ii) directly hired by the division.
- 92 (4) In the event of an unauthorized leave from secure care, detention, a community-based  
93 program, a juvenile receiving center, a home, or any other designated placement of a  
94 minor, a division employee has the authority and duty to locate and apprehend the  
95 minor, or to initiate action with a local law enforcement agency for assistance.
- 96 (5) The division may proceed with an initial medical screening or assessment of a child

97 admitted to a detention facility to ensure the safety of the child and others in the  
98 detention facility if the division makes a good faith effort to obtain consent for the  
99 screening or assessment from the child's parent or guardian.

100 (6) On or before October 31, 2026, the division shall report to the Judiciary Interim  
101 Committee regarding the capacity and occupancy of each detention and secure care  
102 facility for each quarter of the preceding fiscal year, including:

103 (a) the total number of beds used or available for use by a minor;

104 (b) the average number of beds available for use by a minor that were unoccupied; and

105 (c) the average number of minors in custody at the detention or secure care facility.

106 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

107 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.