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Social Health Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Angela Romero

Senate Sponsor:

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LONG TITLE

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General Description:

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This bill defines social health.

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Highlighted Provisions:

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This bill:

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- ▶ defines social health.

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Money Appropriated in this Bill:

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None

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Other Special Clauses:

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None

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Utah Code Sections Affected:

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AMENDS:

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68-3-12.5, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 17

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

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Section 1. Section **68-3-12.5** is amended to read:

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68-3-12.5 . Definitions for Utah Code.

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(1) The definitions listed in this section apply to the Utah Code, unless:

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- (a) the definition is inconsistent with the manifest intent of the Legislature or repugnant to the context of the statute; or

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- (b) a different definition is expressly provided for the respective title, chapter, part, section, or subsection.

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(2) "Adjudicative proceeding" means:

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- (a) an action by a board, commission, department, officer, or other administrative unit of the state that determines the legal rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other legal interests of one or more identifiable persons, including an action to grant, deny, revoke, suspend, modify, annul, withdraw, or amend an authority, right, or license; and

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- (b) judicial review of an action described in Subsection (2)(a).
- (3) "Administrator" includes "executor" when the subject matter justifies the use.
- (4) "Advisory board," "advisory commission," and "advisory council" mean a board, commission, committee, or council that:
 - (a) is created by, and whose duties are provided by, statute or executive order;
 - (b) performs its duties only under the supervision of another person as provided by statute; and
 - (c) provides advice and makes recommendations to another person that makes policy for the benefit of the general public.
- (5) "Armed forces" means the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard.
- (6) "County executive" means:
 - (a) the county commission, in the county commission or expanded county commission form of government established under Title 17, Chapter 62, Forms of County Government;
 - (b) the county executive, in the county executive-council optional form of government authorized by Section 17-62-203; or
 - (c) the county manager, in the council-manager optional form of government authorized by Section 17-62-204.
- (7) "County legislative body" means:
 - (a) the county commission, in the county commission or expanded county commission form of government established under Title 17, Chapter 62, Forms of County Government;
 - (b) the county council, in the county executive-council optional form of government authorized by Section 17-62-203; and
 - (c) the county council, in the council-manager optional form of government authorized by Section 17-62-204.
- (8) "Depose" means to make a written statement made under oath or affirmation.
- (9)(a) "Equal" means, with respect to biological sex, of the same value.
 - (b) "Equal" does not mean, with respect to biological sex:
 - (i) a characteristic of being the same or identical; or
 - (ii) a requirement that biological sexes be ignored or co-mingled in every circumstance.
- (10) "Executor" includes "administrator" when the subject matter justifies the use.

65 (11) "Father" means a parent who is of the male sex.

66 (12) "Female" means the characteristic of an individual whose biological reproductive

67 system is of the general type that functions in a way that could produce ova.

68 (13) "Guardian" includes a person who:

69 (a) qualifies as a guardian of a minor or incapacitated person pursuant to testamentary or

70 court appointment; or

71 (b) is appointed by a court to manage the estate of a minor or incapacitated person.

72 (14) "Highway" includes:

73 (a) a public bridge;

74 (b) a county way;

75 (c) a county road;

76 (d) a common road; and

77 (e) a state road.

78 (15) "Intellectual disability" means the same as that term is defined in the most recent

79 edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the

80 American Psychiatric Association.

81 (16) "Intermediate care facility for people with an intellectual disability" means an

82 institution or distinct part thereof for people with an intellectual disability or related

83 conditions, if the institution or distinct part thereof meets the requirements described in

84 42 U.S.C. Secs. 1396d(d)(1) through (3).

85 (17) "Land" includes:

86 (a) land;

87 (b) a tenement;

88 (c) a hereditament;

89 (d) a water right;

90 (e) a possessory right; and

91 (f) a claim.

92 (18) "Male" means the characteristic of an individual whose biological reproductive system

93 is of the general type that functions to fertilize the ova of a female.

94 (19) "Man" means an adult human male.

95 (20) "Month" means a calendar month, unless otherwise expressed.

96 (21) "Mother" means a parent who is of the female sex.

97 (22) "Oath" includes "affirmation."

98 (23) "Person" means:

- 99 (a) an individual;
- 100 (b) an association;
- 101 (c) an institution;
- 102 (d) a corporation;
- 103 (e) a company;
- 104 (f) a trust;
- 105 (g) a limited liability company;
- 106 (h) a partnership;
- 107 (i) a political subdivision;
- 108 (j) a government office, department, division, bureau, or other body of government; and
- 109 (k) any other organization or entity.

110 (24) "Personal property" includes:

- 111 (a) money;
- 112 (b) goods;
- 113 (c) chattels;
- 114 (d) effects;
- 115 (e) evidences of a right in action;
- 116 (f) a written instrument by which a pecuniary obligation, right, or title to property is
117 created, acknowledged, transferred, increased, defeated, discharged, or diminished;
118 and
- 119 (g) a right or interest in an item described in Subsections (24)(a) through (f).

120 (25) "Personal representative," "executor," and "administrator" include:

- 121 (a) an executor;
- 122 (b) an administrator;
- 123 (c) a successor personal representative;
- 124 (d) a special administrator; and
- 125 (e) a person who performs substantially the same function as a person described in
126 Subsections (25)(a) through (d) under the law governing the person's status.

127 (26) "Policy board," "policy commission," or "policy council" means a board, commission,
128 or council that:

- 129 (a) is authorized to make policy for the benefit of the general public;
- 130 (b) is created by, and whose duties are provided by, the constitution or statute; and
- 131 (c) performs its duties according to its own rules without supervision other than under
132 the general control of another person as provided by statute.

133 (27) "Population" is shown by the most recent state or national census, unless expressly
134 provided otherwise.

135 (28) "Process" means a writ or summons issued in the course of a judicial proceeding.

136 (29) "Property" includes both real and personal property.

137 (30) "Real estate" or "real property" includes:

138 (a) land;

139 (b) a tenement;

140 (c) a hereditament;

141 (d) a water right;

142 (e) a possessory right; and

143 (f) a claim.

144 (31) "Review board," "review commission," and "review council" mean a board,
145 commission, committee, or council that:

146 (a) is authorized to approve policy made for the benefit of the general public by another
147 body or person;

148 (b) is created by, and whose duties are provided by, statute; and

149 (c) performs its duties according to its own rules without supervision other than under
150 the general control of another person as provided by statute.

151 (32) "Road" includes:

152 (a) a public bridge;

153 (b) a county way;

154 (c) a county road;

155 (d) a common road; and

156 (e) a state road.

157 (33) "Sex" means, in relation to an individual, the individual's biological sex, either male or
158 female, at birth, according to distinct reproductive roles as manifested by:

159 (a) sex and reproductive organ anatomy;

160 (b) chromosomal makeup; and

161 (c) endogenous hormone profiles.

162 (34) "Signature" includes a name, mark, or sign written with the intent to authenticate an
163 instrument or writing.

164 (35) "Social health" means:

165 (a) an individual's ability:

166 (i) to build and maintain mutually supportive relationships within and across

167 communities, including the following types of communities:

168 (A) family;

169 (B) peers;

170 (C) school;

171 (D) work; and

172 (E) neighborhood;

173 (ii) to listen with curiosity;

174 (iii) to try to understand the perspective of another individual;

175 (iv) to regulate emotion especially during conflict;

176 (v) to find common ground with another especially during conflict; and

177 (vi) to be empathic to the needs and perspectives of others while asserting the
178 individual's own needs and perspectives;

179 (b) considering the needs and perspective of others for any action or measure to ensure
180 social health of the individual or the larger community;

181 (c) an individual's feelings of being valued by and listened to by others including those
182 who are outside of the individual's immediate family and community; and

183 (d) a measurable construct that assesses an individual's perception of the individual's
184 own social health and the extent to which an individual helps to create:

185 (i) a climate of mutually supportive relationships within and across communities
186 including communities that disagree with each other;

187 (ii) a sense of belongingness; and

188 (iii) perceived common humanity.

189 [(35)] (36) "State," when applied to the different parts of the United States, includes a state,
190 district, or territory of the United States.

191 [(36)] (37) "Swear" includes "affirm."

192 [(37)] (38) "Testify" means to make an oral statement under oath or affirmation.

193 [(38)] (39) "Uniformed services" means:

194 (a) the armed forces;

195 (b) the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
196 and

197 (c) the commissioned corps of the United States Public Health Service.

198 [(39)] (40) "United States" includes each state, district, and territory of the United States of
199 America.

200 [(40)] (41) "Utah Code" means the 1953 recodification of the Utah Code, as amended,

201 unless the text expressly references a portion of the 1953 recodification of the Utah
202 Code as it existed:

203 (a) on the day on which the 1953 recodification of the Utah Code was enacted; or
204 (b)(i) after the day described in Subsection [(40)(a)] (41)(a); and

205 (ii) before the most recent amendment to the referenced portion of the 1953
206 recodification of the Utah Code.

207 [(41)] (42) "Vessel," when used with reference to shipping, includes a steamboat, canal boat,
208 and every structure adapted to be navigated from place to place.

209 [(42)] (43)(a) "Veteran" means an individual who:

210 (i) has served in the United States Armed Forces for at least 180 days:

211 (A) on active duty; or

212 (B) in a reserve component, to include the National Guard; or

213 (ii) has incurred an actual service-related injury or disability while in the United
214 States Armed Forces regardless of whether the individual completed 180 days; and

215 (iii) was separated or retired under conditions characterized as honorable or general.

216 (b) This definition is not intended to confer eligibility for benefits.

217 [(43)] (44) "Will" includes a codicil.

218 [(44)] (45) "Woman" means an adult human female.

219 [(45)] (46) "Writ" means an order or precept in writing, issued in the name of:

220 (a) the state;

221 (b) a court; or

222 (c) a judicial officer.

223 [(46)] (47) "Writing" includes:

224 (a) printing;

225 (b) handwriting; and

226 (c) information stored in an electronic or other medium if the information is retrievable
227 in a perceivable format.

228 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

229 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.