

1 **Student Welfare Check Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Doug Welton

Senate Sponsor:

2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This bill addresses student welfare checks for students with unknown whereabouts.

5 **Highlighted Provisions:**

6 This bill:

- 7 ▶ requires an LEA to refer a student for a welfare check under certain circumstances; and
- 8 ▶ provides that a welfare check referral does not preclude or obligate other actions.

9 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

10 None

11 **Other Special Clauses:**

12 None

13 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

14 ENACTS:

15 **53G-6-214**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

17 Section 1. Section **53G-6-214** is enacted to read:

18 **53G-6-214 . Student welfare check referrals -- Unknown whereabouts.**

19 (1) An LEA shall make a referral for a student welfare check if a student has been absent

20 for 10 or more consecutive school days and all of the following conditions are met:

- 21 (a) the student's parent has failed to notify the school of the student's absence;
- 22 (b) the student's parent has not filed a home school affidavit under Section 53G-6-204;
- 23 (c) the student's parent has not provided notice of unenrollment to the LEA;
- 24 (d) the student's parent has failed to respond to repeated communications from the
- 25 school, including communications through email, telephone, text message, postal
- 26 mail, or other reasonable methods; and
- 27 (e) one of the following is true:
- 28 (i) the LEA has not received a request for student records from another educational
- 29
- 30

31 entity; or
32 (ii) there is no record of the student being enrolled in another LEA.
33 (2) An LEA shall make a referral described in Subsection (1) to:
34 (a) local law enforcement; or
35 (b) the Division of Child and Family Services.
36 (3) A referral under this section is for the purpose of conducting a welfare check to verify
37 the student's safety and well-being.
38 (4) This section does not preclude or obligate any other action under this part or Title 80,
39 Chapter 3, Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Proceedings.
40 Section 2. **Effective Date.**
41 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.