

State Permitting Council
2026 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jason B. Kyle
Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates a permitting coordinator within the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- creates a permitting coordinator within the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity (office), appointed by the executive director of the office;
- establishes duties for the permitting coordinator, including serving as a central point of contact for projects or activities requiring one or more state permits, providing permitting information and guidance, and facilitating coordination among state, federal, and tribal entities;
- authorizes the permitting coordinator to work with governmental entities to identify administrative and legislative changes that may improve the efficiency, transparency, and predictability of state permitting;
- clarifies that the permitting coordinator does not have the authority to issue, approve, deny, or modify a permit;
- authorizes the permitting coordinator to share information with state, federal, tribal, and local governmental entities on permitting matters;
- clarifies that the permitting coordinator's activities and sharing of information with other governmental entities does not obligate the state or a permitting agency to approve a permit or enter into a binding agreement; and
- requires the office to include, in the office's annual report, a summary of the permitting coordinator's assistance and coordination activities and any recommendations for administrative or legislative changes to improve state permitting.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

31 **Other Special Clauses:**

32 None

33 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

34 ENACTS:

35 **63N-22-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36 **63N-22-201**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

37 **63N-22-202**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

38 **63N-22-203**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

39 **63N-22-204**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

40 **63N-22-205**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

43 Section 1. Section **63N-22-101** is enacted to read:

44 **CHAPTER 22. Permitting Coordination**

45 **Part 1. General Provisions**

46 **63N-22-101 . Definitions.**

47 As used in this chapter:

- 48 (1) "Permit" means written authorization to engage in an activity that is regulated under
- 49 state law.
- 50 (2) "Permitting agency" means a state department, division, office, or agency that issues,
- 51 administers, or enforces a permit.
- 52 (3) "Permitting coordinator" means the individual appointed by the executive director under
- 53 Section 63N-22-201.

54 Section 2. Section **63N-22-201** is enacted to read:

55 **Part 2. Permitting Coordinator**

56 **63N-22-201 . Permitting coordinator created -- Appointment -- Status.**

- 57 (1) There is created within the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity the position of
- 58 permitting coordinator.
- 59 (2) The executive director shall appoint the permitting coordinator after consulting with one
- 60 or more permitting agencies that the executive director determines are relevant to the
- 61 duties of the permitting coordinator under Section 63N-22-202.
- 62 (3) The permitting coordinator:
- 63 (a) serves at the pleasure of the executive director; and

64 (b) shall report to the executive director or the executive director's designee.

65 Section 3. Section **63N-22-202** is enacted to read:

66 **63N-22-202 . Duties of permitting coordinator.**

67 (1) With respect to projects, activities, or undertakings that require one or more permits
68 from one or more permitting agencies, the permitting coordinator shall:

69 (a) assist individuals and entities seeking one or more permits by identifying applicable
70 state permitting requirements and the permitting agencies that may have authority
71 over a proposed activity that requires a permit;

72 (b) serve as a central source of information for state permitting requirements and
73 procedures and for permitting agency points of contact for federal officers, federal
74 agencies, persons seeking permits, and other interested parties;

75 (c) develop and make available guidance materials to assist persons seeking permits in
76 navigating state permitting requirements and application processes;

77 (d) coordinate among permitting agencies to promote clarity, transparency, and efficient
78 administration of permit review and timely permit decisions;

79 (e) in coordination with the governor's office:

80 (i) engage with tribal governments on matters relating to permits; and

81 (ii) serve as a point of contact and liaison for the state with federal agencies on
82 matters involving state and federal permits, including the federal Permitting
83 Steering Council created in 42 U.S.C. Sec. 4370m et seq.;

84 (f) identify opportunities to improve coordination between state permitting agencies and
85 federal agencies for projects requiring both state and federal permits; and

86 (g) in conjunction with permitting agencies, identify:

87 (i) administrative or procedural improvements within existing permitting
88 requirements that may improve the administration of permit review and permit
89 issuance and, upon request, assist permitting agencies with implementation of
90 those improvements; and

91 (ii) potential legislative changes relating to permitting requirements that may improve
92 the timeliness, predictability, or efficiency of state permit review and permit
93 issuance.

94 (2) In carrying out the duties described in Subsection (1), the permitting coordinator shall
95 act in coordination with the executive director and applicable permitting agencies.

96 Section 4. Section **63N-22-203** is enacted to read:

97 **63N-22-203 . Limitation on authority.**

- 98 (1) The permitting coordinator may not issue, deny, condition, or modify a permit.
 99 (2) Nothing in this chapter:
 100 (a) alters the jurisdiction or authority of a permitting agency;
 101 (b) creates a right to expedited or preferential review by a permitting agency of a permit
 102 application or permit request; or
 103 (c) creates a presumption that a permitting agency is required to issue or approve a
 104 permit.
 105 (3) The duties of the permitting coordinator do not include assisting with a permit that is
 106 primarily ministerial in nature or that relates to personal licensure, registration, or
 107 identification.

108 Section 5. Section **63N-22-204** is enacted to read:

109 **63N-22-204 . Coordination with other governmental entities.**

- 110 (1) To carry out the duties described in this chapter, the executive director or the permitting
 111 coordinator, as authorized by the executive director, may participate in coordination,
 112 consultation, or information-sharing efforts with state, federal, tribal, or local
 113 governmental entities concerning permitting requirements.
 114 (2) Participation under this chapter does not obligate the state or a permitting agency to
 115 approve a permit, modify a permitting requirement or procedure, or enter into a binding
 116 agreement unless otherwise expressly authorized by law.

117 Section 6. Section **63N-22-205** is enacted to read:

118 **63N-22-205 . Annual report.**

- 119 (1) The executive director shall include, in the annual report described in Section
 120 63N-1a-306, a report regarding the activities of the permitting coordinator.
 121 (2) The report described in Subsection (1) shall include:
 122 (a) a description of the assistance, coordination, or outreach activities performed under
 123 this chapter;
 124 (b) identification of recurring procedural or administrative challenges associated with
 125 state permitting requirements, as observed through the permitting coordinator's
 126 activities; and
 127 (c) recommendations, if any, for any administrative or legislative changes described in
 128 Subsection 63N-22-202(1)(g).

129 Section 7. **Effective Date.**

130 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.