

Inmate Financial Literacy Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Stephanie Pitcher

House Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill requires the Department of Corrections to provide an optional financial literacy class for inmates.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- requires the Department of Corrections to provide an optional financial literacy class for inmates; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

64-13-48, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 310

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

Section 1. Section **64-13-48** is amended to read:

64-13-48 . Educational and career-readiness programs.

- (1) The department shall, in accordance with Subsection 64-13-6(1)(c), ensure that appropriate evidence-based and evidence-informed educational or career-readiness programs are made available to an inmate as soon as practicable after the creation of the inmate's case action plan.
- (2) The department shall provide incarcerated women with substantially equivalent educational and career-readiness opportunities as incarcerated men.
- (3) Before an inmate begins an educational or career-readiness program, the department shall provide reasonable access to resources necessary for an inmate to apply for grants

or other available financial aid that may be available to pay for the inmate's program.

(4)(a) The department shall consider an inmate's current participation in an educational or career-readiness program when the department makes a decision with regard to an inmate's:

(i) transfer to another area or facility; or

(ii) appropriate disciplinary sanction.

(b) When possible, the department shall use best efforts to allow an inmate to continue the inmate's participation in an educational or career-readiness program while the facility is under lockdown, quarantine, or a similar status.

(5)(a) The department shall maintain records on an inmate's educational progress, including completed life skills, certifications, and credit- and non-credit-bearing courses, made while the inmate is incarcerated.

(b) The department shall facilitate the transfer of information related to the inmate's educational process upon the inmate's release, including the inmate's post-release contact information and the records described in Subsection (5)(a), to:

(i) the inmate; or

(ii) an entity that the inmate has authorized to receive the inmate's records or post-release contact information, including an institution:

(A) from which the inmate received educational instruction while the inmate was incarcerated; or

(B) at which the inmate plans to continue the inmate's post-incarceration education.

(6) Beginning May 1, 2023, the department shall provide an annual report to the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee regarding educational and career-readiness programs for inmates, which shall include:

(a) the number of inmates who are participating in an educational or career-readiness program, including an accredited postsecondary education program;

(b) the percentage of inmates who are participating in an educational or career-readiness program as compared to the total inmate population;

(c) inmate program completion and graduation data, including the number of completions and graduations in each educational or career-readiness program;

(d) the potential effect of educational or career-readiness programs on recidivism, as determined by a comparison of:

(i) the total number of inmates who return to incarceration after a previous

- 65 incarceration; and
- 66 (ii) the number of inmates who return to incarceration after a previous incarceration
- 67 who participated in or completed an educational or career-readiness program;
- 68 (e) the number of inmates who were transferred to a different facility while currently
- 69 participating in an educational or career-readiness program, including the number of
- 70 inmates who were unable to continue a program after a transfer to a different facility;
- 71 and
- 72 (f) the department's:
- 73 (i) recommendation for resources that may increase inmates' access to and
- 74 participation in an educational or career-readiness program; and
- 75 (ii) estimate of how many additional inmates would participate in an educational or
- 76 career-readiness program if the resources were provided.
- 77 (7) The department shall:
- 78 (a) ensure that an inmate enrolled in an educational or career-readiness program has
- 79 access to modern technology determined by the provider of the program as necessary
- 80 for an inmate to participate in the program; and
- 81 (b) assist an inmate in applying for jobs within 30 days before the day on which the
- 82 inmate is released from the department's custody.
- 83 (8) The department may not offer training for an inmate to become a certified nursing
- 84 assistant certified by the Department of Health and Human Services.
- 85 (9)(a) The department shall provide inmates with the opportunity to take a financial
- 86 literacy class.
- 87 (b) The financial literacy class described in Subsection (9)(a) shall include instruction on
- 88 strategies for saving and managing money earned through employment, including
- 89 any employment during incarceration.
- 90 ~~[(9)]~~ (10) The department may make rules in accordance with Section 64-13-10 and Title
- 91 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to carry out the provisions of this
- 92 section.

93 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

94 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.