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**Pediatric Care Amendments**  
**2026 GENERAL SESSION**  
**STATE OF UTAH**  
**Chief Sponsor: Jen Plumb**

House Sponsor:

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**3 LONG TITLE**

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**General Description:**

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This bill enacts provisions related to pediatric care.

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**Highlighted Provisions:**

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This bill:

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► requires hospital emergency departments:

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- to create policies addressing pediatric care;
- to have a pediatric emergency care coordinator;
- to conduct pediatric emergency care readiness assessments; and
- to report assessment results to the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (bureau);

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and

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► requires the bureau:

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- to collect data; and
- to make rules regarding pediatric emergency department safety.

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**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

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This bill reallocates \$278,000 ongoing from the General Fund within the Department of Public Safety for a net change of \$0 in fiscal year 2027.

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**Other Special Clauses:**

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None

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**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

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**ENACTS:**

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**53-2d-704**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

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Section 1. Section **53-2d-704** is enacted to read:

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**53-2d-704 . Pediatric readiness.**

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**(1) As used in this section:**

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**(a)(i) "Emergency department" means a general acute hospital department that**

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31                   provides emergency medical care on a 24-hour basis.

32                   (ii) "Emergency department" includes a satellite emergency department as that term  
33                   is defined in Section 26B-2-203.

34                   (b) "General acute hospital" means the same as that term is defined in Section 26B-2-201.

35                   (c) "Pediatric emergency care coordinator" means an individual designated under  
36                   Subsection (3) to oversee pediatric emergency care policies, procedures, and training.

37                   (d) "Pediatric readiness assessment" means the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment  
38                   developed by the National Pediatric Readiness Project.

39                   (2) An emergency department shall:

40                   (a) develop and implement evidence-based policies and procedures for pediatric patient  
41                   care in the emergency department that address:

42                   (i) patient triage protocols;

43                   (ii) measuring and recording vital signs;

44                   (iii) weighing and recording patient weights in kilograms;

45                   (iv) calculating medication dosages for pediatric patients;

46                   (v) proper use of pediatric-specific medical equipment; and

47                   (vi) age-appropriate care protocols;

48                   (b) conduct annual training for emergency department staff on the policies and  
49                   procedures developed under Subsection (2)(a), including:

50                   (i) hands-on training in the use of pediatric equipment through clinical simulation  
51                   appropriate to each staff member's licensure and role; and

52                   (ii) emergency drill exercises that simulate pediatric emergency situations, conducted  
53                   at least every six months.

54                   (3)(a) Each emergency department shall designate a pediatric emergency care  
55                   coordinator who is a:

56                   (i) physician licensed under Title 58, Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act, or Title  
57                   58, Chapter 68, Utah Osteopathic Medical Practice Act;

58                   (ii) physician assistant licensed under Title 58, Chapter 70a, Utah Physician Assistant  
59                   Act; or

60                   (iii) registered nurse or advance practice registered nurse licensed under Title 58,  
61                   Chapter 31b, Nurse Practice Act.

62                   (b) The pediatric emergency care coordinator is responsible for:

63                   (i) implementing the policies and procedures required under Subsection (2);

64                   (ii) ensuring compliance with pediatric care standards; and

(iii) coordinating pediatric emergency care training programs.

(4)(a) Each emergency department shall conduct a pediatric readiness assessment in accordance with the timelines prescribed by the National Pediatric Readiness Project.

(b) A general acute hospital emergency department may voluntarily conduct the National Pediatric Readiness Project's Open Assessment during a year in which the pediatric readiness assessment is not conducted.

(c) Each emergency department shall submit assessment results to the bureau by December 31 of the year in which the assessment occurs.

(5) The bureau shall collect overall assessment scores from pediatric readiness assessments conducted by emergency departments under Subsection (4)(a).

(6) The bureau may publish aggregate data regarding assessment scores.

(7) The bureau shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, that establish minimum standards for pediatric patient care in emergency departments, including:

- (a) availability and immediate access to pediatric-specific equipment and supplies;
- (b) staff training requirements;
- (c) quality assurance measures; and
- (d) reporting requirements for assessment results.

## Section 2. **FY 2027 Appropriations.**

The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for fiscal year 2027.

## **Subsection 2(a). Operating and Capital Budgets**

Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

ITEM 1 To Department of Public Safety - Programs & Operations

From General Fund (278,000)

## Schedule of Programs:

Emergency Medical Services (278,000)

## ITEM 2 To Department of Public Safety - Public Safety Pass-through Grants

From General Fund 278,000

## Schedule of Programs:

Pediatric Readiness 278,000

99                   Under the provisions of Utah Code Annotated  
100                   Title 63G, Chapter 6b, State Grants, the Legislature  
101                   intends that the Department of Public Safety provide a  
102                   direct award grant of \$278,000 from the General Fund in  
103                   fiscal year 2027 to the Utah Pediatric Trauma Network  
104                   for pediatric readiness as defined in Utah Code  
105                   Annotated Section 53-2d-704.

106                   **Section 3. Effective Date.**

107                   This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.