



Background

At its [August 2023 Interim Committee meeting](#), the Health and Human Services Interim Committee received a presentation from the Utah Behavioral Health Coalition regarding Utah's behavioral health system and their efforts on an [Assessment & Master Plan](#) report. The Assessment & Master Plan report examined system-level issues throughout Utah's behavioral health system and considered possible activities, policies, and efforts that could strengthen Utah's continuum of behavioral healthcare services and supports.

Bill Summary

As drafted, this bill addresses a primary concern discussed in the Assessment & Master Plan report – a lack of coordination throughout Utah's behavioral health system. This bill creates a governing authority (the Utah Behavioral Health Commission) to coordinate behavioral health initiatives between state and local governments, health systems, and other interested persons, to ensure that Utah's behavioral health systems are comprehensive, aligned, effective, and efficient.

Key provisions and line number references¹

(underlined items are changes between SB 27 and 2nd Substitute SB 27)

- Creation of the Utah Behavioral Health Commission within the Department of Health and Human Services – *Line 1166*
 - Membership – *Lines 1181 - 1205*
 - Purpose and Duties – *Line 1240 - 1288*
 - Reporting Requirement – *Line 1289 -1306*
 - Staff – *Lines 1375 – 1381*

- Creation of the Legislative Policy Committee – *Lines 1336 - 1381*
 - Membership – *Lines 1341 - 1359*
 - Purpose and Duties – *Lines 1362 – 1372*
 - Staff – *Line 1373*

- Provides that the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Commission, the Education and Mental Health Coordinating Council, the Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Council (USAAV+), and the Statewide Suicide Prevention Committee shall serve under the direction of the Utah Behavioral Health Commission – *Lines 1311 - 1319*
 - Changes the name of the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Commission to the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Committee – *Line 1936 (and throughout)*
 - Changes the name of the Education and Mental Health Coordinating Council to the Education and Mental Health Coordinating Committee – *Line 2119 (and throughout)*

¹ These line number references correspond to 2nd Sub SB 27; 2-2-24 DRAFT (<https://le.utah.gov/~2024/bills/sbillint/SB0027S02.pdf>)



- Changes the name of the Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Council to the Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Committee and moves the committee from the State Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice to the Department of Health and Human Services – *Line 1385 (and throughout)*
- **Sunset Dates**
 - Creates a July 1, 2029, sunset date for the Utah Behavioral Health Commission – *Lines 2314/2417*
 - Changes the sunset date of the Education and Mental Health Coordinating Committee from July 1, 2026, to December 31, 2024 – *Lines 2472 – 2474*
- **Legislators Removed from Committees**
 - Two legislators removed with the December 31, 2024, sunset of the Education and Mental Health Coordinating Committee – *Lines 2472 – 2474*
 - Six legislators removed from the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Committee – *Lines 1997 – 2011*
- **Repeals**
 - The Behavioral Health Delivery Working Group – *Line 2751*
 - Drug-Related Offenses Reform Act (implementation duties given to USAAV+) – *Line 2754/2756*