



MINUTES

HOUSE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE

Friday, January 31, 2025 | 2:00 p.m. | 120 Senate Building

Members Present:

Rep. Candice B. Pierucci, Chair
Rep. Michael L. Kohler, Vice Chair
Rep. Tiara Auxier
Rep. Ariel Defay
Rep. Joseph Elison
Rep. Sahara Hayes
Rep. Karianne Lisonbee
Rep. Matt MacPherson
Rep. Tracy J. Miller
Rep. Carol S. Moss

Rep. Nicholeen P. Peck
Rep. Karen M. Peterson
Rep. Val L. Peterson
Rep. Douglas R. Welton

Members Absent:

Rep. Jefferson Moss
Rep. R. Neil Walter

Staff Present:

Finn Andrew Rose, Policy Analyst
Tisha Gibby, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Pierucci called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Kohler moved to approve the January 28, 2025 minutes. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 13

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. J. Moss
Rep. R. Walter

1. H.B. 281 Health Curriculum and Procedures Amendments (*Gricius, S.*)

Rep. Stephanie Gricius presented the bill with the assistance of Aaron Fischer, Director, Utah School Mental Health Collaborative.

Diane Livingston, Worldwide Organization for Women, spoke in favor of the bill.

Tanner Hone, President, Utah School Social Work Association, spoke to the bill.

Daysha Stephens, on behalf of marriage and family therapist Jeff Bennion, spoke in favor of the bill.

Tiana McCall, licensed clinical social worker, spoke against the bill.

Larissa Archuleta, licensed clinical social worker, spoke against the bill.

Jessica Black, Utah Mental Health Counselors Association, spoke against the bill.

Brooke Stephens, Utah Moms for America, spoke in favor of the bill.

Sarah Stroup, Utah Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, spoke against the bill.

Corinne Johnson, President, Utah Parents United, spoke in favor of the bill.

Kevin Labresh, school psychologist, spoke against the bill.

Maryann Christensen, Utah Legislative Watch, spoke in favor of the bill.

Joel Johnson, National Association of Social Workers, spoke against the bill.

Crystal Young, lobbyist, spoke in favor of the bill.

Aaron Bullen, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Laurel Fetzer, resident, spoke against the bill.

Alexis Ence, Vice President, Washington County Republican Women, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Defay moved to replace H.B. 281 with 1st Substitute H.B. 281. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 13

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. J. Moss
Rep. R. Walter

MOTION: Rep. Defay moved to amend 1st Substitute H.B. 281 with Amendment #1. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 3.

Amendment 1

1. Line 88 through 90:

88 (b)after each session of in-school mental health therapy, on the day of the instance, the
89 school-based mental health therapist shall provide to the student's parent:
90 (i)notice that the session took place; and

Yeas - 13

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 0Absent - 3

Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. J. Moss
Rep. R. Walter

MOTION: Rep. Peck moved to amend 1st Substitute H.B. 281 as amended with Amendment #4.
Amendment 4

1. Line 241 through 243:

241 (D)human development;
242 (E)marriage {and safe dating practices};
243 (F)refusal skills;

2. Line 398 through 400:

398 [(F)pregnancy;]
399 [(G)](E){[healthy dating practices](#),—}marriage, and parenthood, in accordance with
400 the success sequence as defined in Section 53G-10-402;

After some committee discussion, Rep. Peck withdrew the motion.

MOTION: Rep. Lisonbee moved to pass 1st Substitute H.B. 281 out favorably as amended. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 2 - 3.

Yeas - 11

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 2

Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. C. Moss

Absent - 3

Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. J. Moss
Rep. R. Walter

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Auxier moved to amend 1st Substitute H.B. 281 as amended with Amendment #5. The substitute motion failed with a vote of 3 - 10 - 3.

Amendment 5

1. Line 93 through 100:

93 the LEA, school, or school-based mental health therapist shall, through

94 consultation with the parent, provide the parent {an opportunity to identify topics
 95 or issues the parent intends a school-based mental health therapist to address or to
 96 not address with the student.} a consent form on which the LEA, school, or school-based mental health
therapist:
 (A) expressly lists specific topics or issues that a school-based mental health therapist may encounter with a
student; and
 (B) obtains express parental consent or refusal to each individual topic or issue.
 97 (ii) A school-based mental health therapist may not address a topic or issue for which
 98 a parent has expressly {stated an intent for the therapist to not address with the
 99 student} under this Subsection (3)(a).
 100 (iii) Notwithstanding Subsections (3)(a)(i) and (3)(a)(ii), if a student reports

Yeas - 3

Rep. T. Auxier
 Rep. M. Kohler
 Rep. N. Peck

Nays - 10

Rep. A. Defay
 Rep. J. Elison
 Rep. S. Hayes
 Rep. K. Lisonbee
 Rep. T. Miller
 Rep. C. Moss
 Rep. K. Peterson
 Rep. V. Peterson
 Rep. C. Pierucci
 Rep. D. Welton

Absent - 3

Rep. M. MacPherson
 Rep. J. Moss
 Rep. R. Walter

2. H.B. 204 Stipends for Future Educators Grant Program Amendments (Peterson, K.)

Rep. Karen Peterson presented the bill.

Sylvia Read, Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Services, Utah State University, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Val Peterson moved to amend H.B. 204 with Amendment #1. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Amendment 1

1. Line 30 through 37:

30 (a) "Eligible student teacher" means a student teacher who:
 31 (i) is enrolled in an educator preparation program that leads to a {Utah} professional
 32 level educator license, regardless of whether the student teacher is enrolled at a
 33 state institution described in Section 53B-1-102, or another public or private
 34 institution within the state or another state;{and}
 35 (ii) works at an LEA within the state as a full-time student teacher to meet the educator preparation
 36 program requirements{; and
 (iii) signs an affidavit demonstrating the student teacher's intent to work in Utah and pursue a Utah professional
level educator license.
 37 (b) "License" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53E-6-102.

2. Line 49 through 52:

49 (e) does not receive compensation during the student teaching experience from:
 50 (i) an LEA, unless the eligible student teacher works as a substitute teacher or {athletic
 51 coach};
 52 (ii) a work service program offered through the Department of Workforce Services; or

Yeas - 12

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 0Absent - 4

Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. J. Moss
Rep. R. Walter

MOTION: Rep. Val Peterson moved to pass H.B. 204 out favorably as amended. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 12

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 0Absent - 4

Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. J. Moss
Rep. R. Walter

3. H.B. 265 Higher Education Strategic Reinvestment (*Peterson, K.*)

Rep. Karen Peterson presented the bill with the assistance of Geoff Landward, Commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education.

Rep. Kohler assumed the chair.

Kelvyn Cullimore, CEO, BioUtah, spoke in favor of the bill.

Jason Chipman, Libertas Institute, spoke in favor of the bill.

Josh Stavros, resident, spoke to the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Pierucci moved to amend H.B. 265 with Amendment #2. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Amendment 2

1. Line 100:

100 post-graduation employment outcomes; and

101 (b)enrollment-based funding[.]

(i)include equivalent funding value for secondary and adult students; and

(ii)reflect the full responsibility of the technical college's statutorily-required services.

2. Line 208:

208 amount equal to the amount the institution failed to properly reallocate.
 209 ~~{(8)A reduction or closure of a program, department, college, or position in accordance with~~
 210 ~~an institution's strategic reinvestment plan constitutes a financial exigency as described~~
 211 ~~in Section 53B-2-106.1 and other personnel and staffing decisions.}~~
(8)(a)Each degree-granting institution shall:
(i)establish policies specifically to effectuate the strategic reinvestment plan, and that address the following:
(A)reduction or elimination of positions and other personnel decisions; and
(B)internal institutional procedures regarding the reduction, elimination, creation, or modification of programs,
courses, degrees, departments, colleges, or other divisions of the institution;
(ii)ensure that the policies described in Subsection (8)(a):
(A)create operational efficiencies in carrying out the strategic reinvestment plan;
(B)assist the institution to meet the timeframes described in this section and the strategic reinvestment plan;
and
(C)are consistent with the guidance the board provides in accordance with Subsection (4)(a); and
(iii)prepare the policies described in Subsection (8)(a) in consultation with the board.
(b)An institution's policies described in Subsection (8)(a) may supersede the following that are inconsistent with
the strategic reinvestment plan or the goals of the plan:
(i)an existing policy, procedure, or timeframe of the institution; and
(ii)a board policy, if the board determines that superseding the policy is necessary or appropriate.
(c)Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, an institution may act in accordance with the policies
described in this Subsection (8).

Yeas - 12

Rep. T. Auxier
 Rep. A. Defay
 Rep. J. Elison
 Rep. S. Hayes
 Rep. M. Kohler
 Rep. T. Miller
 Rep. C. Moss
 Rep. N. Peck
 Rep. K. Peterson
 Rep. V. Peterson
 Rep. C. Pierucci
 Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Rep. K. Lisonbee
 Rep. M. MacPherson
 Rep. J. Moss
 Rep. R. Walter

MOTION: Rep. Pierucci moved to pass H.B. 265 out favorably as amended. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 3 - 3.

Yeas - 10

Rep. A. Defay
 Rep. J. Elison
 Rep. M. Kohler
 Rep. K. Lisonbee
 Rep. T. Miller
 Rep. N. Peck
 Rep. K. Peterson
 Rep. V. Peterson
 Rep. C. Pierucci
 Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 3

Rep. T. Auxier
 Rep. S. Hayes
 Rep. C. Moss

Absent - 3

Rep. M. MacPherson
 Rep. J. Moss
 Rep. R. Walter

4. H.B. 184 School Trust Land Amendments (Miller, T.)

Rep. Miller presented the bill with the assistance of Elisse Newey, Deputy Superintendent, Utah State Board of Education (USBE).

Paula Plant, Director, School Children's Trust, USBE, presented additional information.

Liz Mumford, Program Manager, Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Office, spoke in favor of the bill.

Lexi Cunningham, Utah School Superintendents Association, and Utah School Board Association, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Karen Peterson moved to pass H.B. 184 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 1 - 3.

Yeas - 12

Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 1

Rep. T. Auxier

Absent - 3

Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. J. Moss
Rep. R. Walter

MOTION: Rep. Pierucci moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 13

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. J. Moss
Rep. R. Walter

Chair Kohler adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.