

Chapter 18
Utah State University

Part 1
Agricultural Experiment Station

53B-18-101 Agricultural experiment station.

- (1) There is established an agricultural experiment station in connection with Utah State University.
- (2) The station conducts research as provided by state and federal laws governing the establishment and maintenance of agricultural experiment stations.

Enacted by Chapter 167, 1987 General Session

53B-18-102 Purchases of land -- Equipment -- Personnel.

Utah State University is in charge of the experiment station, and shall purchase or lease suitable lands, erect necessary buildings, provide needed equipment, and appoint officers and assistants to conduct and issue reports on the research conducted at the station.

Enacted by Chapter 167, 1987 General Session

53B-18-103 Cooperative agreements.

The university may enter into cooperative agreements with governmental entities, organizations, corporations, institutions, and individuals to carry out the provisions governing agricultural experiment stations.

Enacted by Chapter 167, 1987 General Session

53B-18-104 Substations.

- (1) The university may establish and maintain substations to assist in conducting the research provided for in Section 53B-18-101.
- (2) The university may discontinue the existence of a substation.
- (3) If a substation is created by legislative enactment, the university is under no obligation to maintain the substation beyond that time for which special appropriations are made by the Legislature.

Enacted by Chapter 167, 1987 General Session

53B-18-105 Climate center.

Utah State University shall establish and maintain a climate center to gather and analyze climatological data for the benefit of all state agencies.

Enacted by Chapter 139, 2003 General Session

Part 2
Agricultural Extension Service

53B-18-201 Agricultural extension service.

There is established by Utah State University an agricultural extension service as provided in the federal Smith-Lever and Capper-Ketchum Acts and other federal laws.

Enacted by Chapter 167, 1987 General Session

53B-18-202 Cooperative contracts for expenses.

The university may enter into cooperative contracts with the United States Department of Agriculture, county or city officers, private and public organizations, corporations, and individuals, to share the expense of establishing and maintaining an agricultural extension service. The county legislative body of each county may provide sufficient funds to insure that the agricultural extension service functions properly in its county.

Amended by Chapter 12, 1994 General Session

53B-18-203 Federal aid for experiment station.

- (1) The governor may apply to the Secretary of the Treasury to obtain any appropriation made by Congress relating to the federal laws referred to in Section 53B-18-204. Whenever the university and agricultural experiment station shall be entitled to any money under these acts or similar acts the university shall execute and file with the Secretary of the Treasury an agreement to expend the money received for the sole and exclusive purpose expressed in such act and in the manner therein directed, and to maintain a farm of at least 25 acres in connection with Utah State University. The university shall also comply with all conditions expressed in the acts.
- (2) The university shall execute and file with the Secretary of the Treasury an agreement relating to the expenditure of funds received under the laws referred to in Subsection (1) that the funds will be used for the exclusive purpose directed in those laws.
- (3) The university shall comply with all conditions expressed in the laws referred to in Subsection (1) in order to receive money under those laws.

Enacted by Chapter 167, 1987 General Session

53B-18-204 Acceptance of federal grants.

The state of Utah reaffirms its acceptance of the grants of money and property authorized by the following Acts of Congress:

- (1) the Morrill Act, approved July 2, 1862;
- (2) an Act of Congress passed March 2, 1887, entitled, "An act to establish agricultural experiment stations in connection with the colleges established in the several states under the provisions of an act approved July 2, 1862, and all acts supplementary to that act";
- (3) an Act of Congress entitled, "An act to provide an increased annual appropriation for agricultural experiment stations and regulating the expenditure thereof," approved March 16, 1906;
- (4) the Purnell Act, approved February 24, 1925;
- (5) "the Smith-Lever Act to aid in the development of the extension work in connection with the agricultural colleges," approved May 8, 1914;
- (6) "the Capper-Ketchum Act, providing for further support of agricultural extension work as conducted by the agricultural colleges," approved May 22, 1928.

Enacted by Chapter 167, 1987 General Session

53B-18-205 State guarantee of federal funds.

The state guarantees all money received under Section 53B-18-204 against loss or misapplication.

Enacted by Chapter 167, 1987 General Session

53B-18-206 Treasurer to receive appropriations.

The treasurer of Utah State University is the officer who receives money appropriated by the Secretary of the Treasury under Sections 53B-18-203 and 53B-18-204.

Enacted by Chapter 167, 1987 General Session

**Part 3
Regional Campuses**

53B-18-301 Regional campuses -- Administration -- Location.

Utah State University shall operate and administer regional campuses located at or near Roosevelt and Moab.

Amended by Chapter 357, 2019 General Session

53B-18-302 Courses offered at regional campuses.

A regional campus described in Section 53B-18-301 shall offer academic courses comparable to those offered in an accredited institution of higher education.

Amended by Chapter 357, 2019 General Session

**Part 4
State Power Plant**

53B-18-401 Control and supervision.

Utah State University has general control and supervision of the state power plant in Logan Canyon.

Enacted by Chapter 167, 1987 General Session

**Part 5
Nonprofit Corporations or Foundations**

53B-18-501 Nonprofit corporations or foundations -- Purpose.

(1) In addition to any other powers which it now has, Utah State University may form nonprofit corporations or foundations controlled by the president of the university and the board to aid

and assist the university in attaining its charitable, scientific, literary, research, and educational objectives.

- (2) The nonprofit corporations or foundations may receive and administer legislative appropriations, government grants, contracts, and private gifts to carry out their public purposes.

Amended by Chapter 365, 2020 General Session

Part 6

Strengthening At-Risk Youth and Their Families Program

53B-18-601 Program creation -- Location.

- (1) There is created the Strengthening At-Risk Youth and Their Families Program to be administered through the Utah State University Extension Family Life and 4-H Programs.
- (2) The program shall be implemented throughout the state through Utah State University Extension county offices.

Enacted by Chapter 381, 1998 General Session

53B-18-602 Program requirements -- Referrals -- Evaluation.

- (1) The program shall provide services to youth who have demonstrated behavioral and learning problems at school or have been referred to juvenile court for delinquent behavior.
- (2) Youths and their families in need of services may be identified and referred to the program through:
 - (a) school officials;
 - (b) juvenile court officers;
 - (c) community social service agencies; or
 - (d) parents.
- (3) The program shall actively seek and screen adult volunteers to work with high risk youth and their families.
- (4) The program shall provide training and support to the volunteers to prepare them for the wide variety of social, cultural, and other environmental factors they will encounter.
- (5) The volunteers shall:
 - (a) enroll and involve youth in 4-H and other community service and activity programs;
 - (b) provide academic tutoring, with an emphasis on reading skills, when necessary;
 - (c) seek out opportunities for participation in structured recreational activities; and
 - (d) facilitate the families' development of a positive family environment including:
 - (i) setting clear expectations and limits in the home;
 - (ii) fostering communication skills between family members;
 - (iii) encouraging the families' involvement in the school and community; and
 - (iv) assisting in the development of time management skills.
- (6) The program shall provide for an annual assessment and evaluation of the entire program including:
 - (a) assessments conducted on youths and their families before entering the program;
 - (b) documentation of ongoing changes observed in the youths while participating in the program, including behavioral and academic changes;

- (c) assessments conducted on youths and their families upon exiting the program; and
- (d) overall assessment of the program in the various communities, to include:
 - (i) acceptance and support within the community;
 - (ii) availability of sufficient programs and activities; and
 - (iii) availability of qualified adults to serve as volunteers.

Enacted by Chapter 381, 1998 General Session

Part 7 Recreation and Tourism Program

53B-18-701 Recreation and Tourism Program.

- (1) There is appropriated for fiscal year 1998-99, \$150,000 from the General Fund to Utah State University for base budget funding to conduct a program of teaching, research, and extension on outdoor recreation and tourism.
- (2) The university shall establish the program in the Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism in the College of Natural Resources.
- (3) The extension and research program shall focus on at least three areas:
 - (a) tourism and outdoor recreation use;
 - (b) the social and economic tradeoffs of tourism and outdoor recreation for local communities; and
 - (c) the relationship between outdoor recreation and tourism and public land management practices and policies.
- (4) The purpose of the program is to provide:
 - (a) better data for the Legislature and state agencies in their decision-making processes on issues relating to tourism and outdoor recreation;
 - (b) a base of information and expertise to assist community officials as they attempt to balance the economic, social, and environmental tradeoffs in tourism development; and
 - (c) an interdisciplinary approach of research and study on outdoor recreation and tourism, a complex sector of the state's economy.
- (5) The program shall include an office at the university for coordinating interdepartmental research and extension efforts with different agencies and institutions of higher education.

Enacted by Chapter 398, 1998 General Session

Part 8 Center for the School of the Future

53B-18-801 Establishment of the center -- Purpose -- Duties and responsibilities.

- (1) There is hereby established the Center for the School of the Future at Utah State University, hereafter referred to as "the center."
- (2)
 - (a) The purpose of the center is to promote best practices in the state's public education system and encourage cooperative and research development relationships between public and higher education.

- (b) For purposes of this section "best practices" means the best process or system that effectively achieves an educational objective.
- (3) The center has the following duties and responsibilities:
 - (a) to direct its efforts to those education issues judged to be of greatest importance by the State Board of Education, school districts, and their patrons, subject to the availability of funds to sustain its efforts;
 - (b) to coordinate and collaborate with education stakeholders, such as institutions of higher education, the State Board of Education, school districts, parent-teacher organizations, and other public and private educational interests in identifying or developing and then implementing best practices throughout the state's public education system;
 - (c) to contribute to the creation and maintenance of a public education system that continually and systematically improves itself by building upon the most effective education policies, programs, and practices and rejecting those that are less effective;
 - (d) to identify problems and challenges in providing educational and related services to all students in the public schools, including special education students and students at risk;
 - (e) to identify current public and private resources at both the state and national level that are available to resolve problems or overcome challenges within the public education system and seek additional resources as necessary; and
 - (f) to support the implementation of best practices in the public education system through professional development programs and dissemination of information.
- (4) The center in collaboration with the State Board of Education shall:
 - (a) clarify the problems and challenges identified under this section, identify desired outcomes, and agree upon measures of outcomes;
 - (b) prioritize the problems and challenges;
 - (c) identify readily accessible resources to solve problems and challenges, including best practices that could be implemented with little or no adaptation;
 - (d) determine whether new programs or procedures should be developed, and estimate the extent of effort required for that development;
 - (e) determine which existing programs should be eliminated; and
 - (f) assist in implementing solutions, monitoring accomplishments, disseminating results, and facilitating the extension of successful efforts to new settings.

Amended by Chapter 144, 2016 General Session

Part 9

Distance Education Doctorate Program

53B-18-901 Distance Education Doctorate Program.

- (1) The Legislature finds that:
 - (a) many Utah public education administrators are nearing the end of their careers and will retire early in the 21st Century;
 - (b) Utah public schools have many mid-career faculty that could become the next wave of administrators if they were prepared with a doctorate in education degree that emphasized curriculum and instruction;
 - (c) each of Utah's community colleges have several faculty that need a terminal degree and further knowledge in curriculum development and state-of-the-art instructional methodology,

- and these individuals, being mid-career, find it difficult to relocate to a college campus for a traditional program; and
- (d) the state and its students will be better served if faculty and administrators are more knowledgeable about the development of curriculum and the latest instructional methodology based on documented research.
- (2) Therefore, Utah State University shall establish a Distance Education Doctorate Program to accommodate public education administrators and community college faculty and administration.
 - (3) The program shall include the following components:
 - (a) the offering of courses for a doctorate degree in education over the system established under Title 53B, Chapter 17, Part 1, Educational Telecommunications;
 - (b) structuring of the program to make it identical to a regular campus program in rigor and course work; and
 - (c) providing a support system from at least the following five departments at the university:
 - (i) Elementary Education;
 - (ii) Secondary Education;
 - (iii) Business Information Systems and Education;
 - (iv) Industrial Technology; and
 - (v) Agricultural Systems Technology and Education.
 - (4) The university shall augment the program with off-campus summer courses, with those courses eventually being offered over the system established under Title 53B, Chapter 17, Part 1, Educational Telecommunications.
 - (5) The Legislature shall provide an annual appropriation to fund the program established under this part.

Amended by Chapter 63, 2014 General Session

Part 10

Mormon Pioneer Heritage Center

53B-18-1001 Definitions.

As used in this part:

- (1) "Alliance" means the Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance.
- (2) "Center" means the Mormon Pioneer Heritage Center.
- (3) "Counties" means the counties of Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Wayne, Garfield, and Kane.

Enacted by Chapter 23, 2004 General Session

53B-18-1002 Establishment of the center -- Purpose -- Duties and responsibilities.

- (1) There is established the Mormon Pioneer Heritage Center in connection with Utah State University.
- (2) The purpose of the center is to coordinate interdepartmental research and extension efforts in recreation, heritage tourism, and agricultural extension service and to enter into cooperative contracts with the United States Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, state, county, and city officers, public and private organizations, and individuals to enhance Mormon pioneer heritage.

- (3) The center has the following duties and responsibilities:
 - (a) to support United States Congressional findings that the landscape, architecture, traditions, products, and events in the counties convey the heritage of pioneer settlements and their role in agricultural development;
 - (b) to coordinate with extension agents in the counties to assist in the enhancement of heritage businesses and the creation of heritage products;
 - (c) to foster a close working relationship with all levels of government, the private sector, residents, business interests, and local communities;
 - (d) to support United States Congressional findings that the historical, cultural, and natural heritage legacies of Mormon colonization and settlement are nationally significant;
 - (e) to encourage research and studies relative to the variety of heritage resources along the 250-mile Highway 89 corridor from Fairview to Kanab, Utah, and Highways 12 and 24, the All American Road, to the extent those resources demonstrate:
 - (i) the colonization of the western United States; and
 - (ii) the expansion of the United States as a major world power;
 - (f) to demonstrate that the great relocation to the western United States was facilitated by:
 - (i) the 1,400 mile trek from Illinois to the Great Salt Lake by the Mormon Pioneers; and
 - (ii) the subsequent colonization effort in Nevada, Utah, the southeast corner of Idaho, the southwest corner of Wyoming, large areas of southeastern Oregon, much of southern California, and areas along the eastern border of California; and
 - (g) to assist in interpretive efforts that demonstrate how the Boulder Loop, Capitol Reef National Park, Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, and the Highway 89 area convey the compelling story of how early settlers:
 - (i) interacted with Native Americans; and
 - (ii) established towns and cities in a harsh, yet spectacular, natural environment.
- (4) The center, in collaboration with the United States Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Forest Service, the Department of Cultural and Community Engagement, the Utah Historical Society, and the alliance and its intergovernmental local partners, shall:
 - (a) assist in empowering communities in the counties to conserve, preserve, and enhance the heritage of the communities while strengthening future economic opportunities;
 - (b) help conserve, interpret, and develop the historical, cultural, natural, and recreational resources within the counties; and
 - (c) expand, foster, and develop heritage businesses and products relating to the cultural heritage of the counties.
- (5) The center, in collaboration with the United States Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, and with funding from the alliance, shall develop a heritage management plan.

Amended by Chapter 160, 2023 General Session

Part 11
Higher Education Engineering Partnership

53B-18-1101 Higher Education Engineering Partnership.

- (1) Utah State University and Weber State University shall enter into a partnership agreement to jointly deliver a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering to meet the demand for electrical engineers in the state, including the demand at Hill Air force Base.
- (2) The partnership agreement may provide for:
 - (a) a satellite location for the Utah State University electrical engineering program on a Weber State University campus, including the Davis campus; and
 - (b) a curriculum using courses from:
 - (i) Weber State University's electrical engineering technology and general education programs; and
 - (ii) Utah State University's electrical engineering bachelor's degree program and other related programs.

Enacted by Chapter 336, 2007 General Session

Part 12

Comprehensive Regional Universities

53B-18-1201 Utah State University Eastern -- Establishment -- Regional advisory council.

- (1) As used in this section:
 - (a) "University" means Utah State University.
 - (b) "Vice president" means the vice president described in Subsection (5).
- (2)
 - (a) There is established a comprehensive regional college of the university called Utah State University Eastern.
 - (b) The university shall:
 - (i) possess all rights, title, privileges, powers, immunities, franchises, endowments, property, and claims of the College of Eastern Utah; and
 - (ii) fulfill and perform all obligations of Utah State University Eastern, including obligations relating to outstanding bonds and notes.
- (3)
 - (a) Utah State University Eastern has a campus that serves Price, Utah, and surrounding areas.
 - (b) The university board of trustees shall establish Utah State University Eastern's service region.
- (4) Utah State University Eastern is under the authority and direction of the university president and the university board of trustees.
- (5) Utah State University Eastern shall be administered by a vice president of the university appointed by the university president.
- (6)
 - (a) The university president shall appoint a regional advisory council to advise the university president and the vice president regarding local issues relating to Utah State University Eastern.
 - (b) The vice president shall provide the university president with recommendations for membership on the regional advisory council.
 - (c) The regional advisory council may include:
 - (i) a student representative; or
 - (ii) residents of the counties in the Utah State University Eastern service region.

Repealed and Re-enacted by Chapter 357, 2019 General Session

53B-18-1202 Utah State University Blanding -- Establishment -- Regional advisory council.

- (1) As used in this section:
 - (a) "University" means Utah State University.
 - (b) "Vice president" means the vice president described in Subsection (5).
- (2) There is established a comprehensive regional college of the university called Utah State University Blanding.
- (3)
 - (a) Utah State University Blanding has a campus that serves Blanding, Utah, and surrounding areas.
 - (b) The university board of trustees shall establish Utah State University Blanding's service region.
- (4) Utah State University Blanding is under the authority and direction of the university president and the university board of trustees.
- (5) Utah State University Blanding shall be administered by a vice president of the university appointed by the university president.
- (6)
 - (a) The university president shall appoint a regional advisory council to advise the university president and the vice president regarding local issues relating to Utah State University Blanding.
 - (b) The vice president shall provide the university president with recommendations for membership on the regional advisory council.
 - (c) The regional advisory council may include:
 - (i) a student representative; or
 - (ii) residents of the counties in the Utah State University Blanding service region.

Enacted by Chapter 357, 2019 General Session

Part 13
Veterinary Education Program

53B-18-1301 Veterinary education program -- Partnership agreement.

- (1) With the approval of the board, Utah State University may enter into a partnership agreement with Washington State University to establish a veterinary education program.
- (2) The partnership agreement may provide that:
 - (a)
 - (i) initially, up to 20 Utah resident students and 10 nonresident students may be accepted each year into a four-year program leading to a doctorate in veterinary medicine; and
 - (ii) if resources become available to expand the doctoral program in veterinary medicine, additional Utah resident students and nonresident students may be accepted into the program; and
 - (b) students accepted into the doctoral program in veterinary medicine pursuant to Subsection (2)(a) complete the first and second years of study at Utah State University and the third and fourth years of study at Washington State University.

- (3) Subject to future budget constraints, the Legislature shall annually provide an appropriation to pay for the nonresident portion of tuition for Utah students enrolled at Washington State University under a partnership agreement authorized by this section for the third and fourth years of a doctoral program in veterinary medicine.

Amended by Chapter 365, 2020 General Session

Part 14

Uintah Basin Air Quality Research Project

53B-18-1401 Uintah Basin Air Quality Research Project -- Report.

- (1) There is created the Uintah Basin Air Quality Research Project to study ozone formation in the Uintah Basin.
- (2) The Utah State University Bingham Entrepreneurship and Energy Research Center shall:
 - (a) conduct the Uintah Basin Air Quality Research Project by:
 - (i) developing and improving computer models to simulate ozone formation and determine its cause;
 - (ii) measuring pollutants in the ambient air to:
 - (A) track how emissions are changing over time; and
 - (B) verify the accuracy of computer models; and
 - (iii) characterizing pollutant emissions from various sources; and
 - (b) annually report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee on the results of the research described in Subsection (2)(a) by no later than November 30 of each year.

Enacted by Chapter 128, 2016 General Session

Part 15

Rural Online Initiative

53B-18-1501 Remote online opportunities program -- Report to Legislature.

- (1) As used in this section:
 - (a) "Association of governments" means an association of political subdivisions established pursuant to an interlocal agreement under Title 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act.
 - (b) "Program" means the program administered by Utah State University in accordance with this section.
 - (c) "Remote online opportunity" means employment, including freelance employment, or the operation of an online business for which an individual:
 - (i) can complete duties primarily online; and
 - (ii) is not required to work from a specific geographic location.
- (2)
 - (a) Subject to legislative appropriations, Utah State University, through a county extension office, shall administer a program that helps individuals who live in rural areas access remote online opportunities.

- (b) In administering the program, Utah State University shall consider input from a county located in a geographic area selected for the program under Subsection (4).
- (3) Utah State University shall, as part of the program:
 - (a) provide training modules to adults and high school students;
 - (b) coordinate with rural high schools and postsecondary institutions;
 - (c) develop marketing materials;
 - (d) develop relationships with information technology companies that offer remote online opportunities;
 - (e) partner with websites that list freelance remote online opportunities;
 - (f) provide scholarships for individuals who live in rural areas to access online skill-based training for remote online opportunities;
 - (g) provide one-on-one coaching for an individual who pursues a remote online opportunity; and
 - (h) conduct other activities related to remote online opportunities as determined by Utah State University.
- (4)
 - (a) Utah State University shall administer the program:
 - (i) in at least one geographic area in the state initially; and
 - (ii) in additional geographic areas if resources allow.
 - (b) In determining where to initially administer the program, Utah State University shall consider whether counties in a geographic area:
 - (i) are primarily rural or have remote rural areas;
 - (ii) face high unemployment rates;
 - (iii) have access to high speed Internet;
 - (iv) have a large percentage of high school graduates leave the geographic area after graduating from high school; and
 - (v) are members of an association of governments that supports helping individuals who live in rural areas access remote online opportunities.
- (5) On or before November 1, 2020, and on or before November 1 every third year thereafter, Utah State University shall report to the Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee on:
 - (a) the number of individuals who receive training through the program;
 - (b) the number and percentage of individuals who participate in the program and access a remote online opportunity; and
 - (c) whether there is a reduction in the unemployment rate in a geographic area included in the program.

Amended by Chapter 14, 2021 General Session

Part 16

USTAR Researchers

53B-18-1601 Definitions.

As used in this part:

- (1) "Researcher" means an individual who:
 - (a) on May 8, 2018, is employed, alone or as part of a research team, by the university;

- (b) before May 8, 2018, received funding from USTAR for some or all of the researcher's startup costs or salary;
 - (c) was recruited to become a member of the university's faculty; and
 - (d) after May 8, 2018, receives some or all of the researcher's start up costs or salary from a legislative appropriation to the university for that purpose.
- (2) "University" means Utah State University.
- (3) "USTAR" means the Utah Science Technology and Research Initiative, which was repealed in 2020.

Amended by Chapter 360, 2020 General Session

Part 17

Food Security Council

53B-18-1701 Definitions.

As used in this part:

- (1) "Council" means the Food Security Council created in Section 53B-18-1702.
- (2) "Food security" means access to sufficient, affordable, safe, and nutritious food that meets an individual's food preferences and dietary needs.
- (3) "SNAP-Ed program" means the nutrition education component of the federal "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program" under Title 7, U.S.C. Chapter 51, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- (4) "State superintendent" means the state superintendent of public instruction appointed under Section 53E-3-301.
- (5) "Utah food product" means a food product that is produced in the state.

Enacted by Chapter 94, 2022 General Session

53B-18-1702 Creation of Food Security Council -- Members.

- (1) There is created at Utah State University the Food Security Council.
- (2) The council is composed of the following 15 members:
 - (a) the executive director of the Department of Health and Human Services or the executive director's designee;
 - (b) the executive director of the Department of Workforce Services or the executive director's designee;
 - (c) the state superintendent or the state superintendent's designee;
 - (d) the commissioner or the commissioner's designee;
 - (e) the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food or the commissioner's designee; and
 - (f) the following members appointed by the chair of the council:
 - (i) one member who represents the Utah State University Extension Service;
 - (ii) one member who represents the Utah State University Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program;
 - (iii) one member who represents the Utah Women, Infants, and Children Program administered under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1786;
 - (iv) one member who represents the Utah SNAP-Ed program;

- (v) one member who represents a food assistance organization;
 - (vi) one member who represents an advocacy group that addresses federal nutrition programs;
 - (vii) one member who represents an organization that promotes healthy eating and active lifestyles in the state;
 - (viii) one member who represents an organization that provides refugee resettlement services in the state;
 - (ix) one member who represents the Utah Farm Bureau Federation; and
 - (x) one member who represents a tribal government in the state.
- (3)
- (a) A member described in Subsection (2)(d) shall serve a term of two years.
 - (b) If a vacancy occurs for a member described in Subsection (2)(d), the chair of the council shall appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the member's term.
 - (c) A member may serve more than one term.
- (4) A member may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service.
- (5) The council shall elect a chair from the council's members, who shall serve a two-year term.
- (6)
- (a) A majority of the members of the council constitutes a quorum of the council.
 - (b) The action by a majority of the members of a quorum constitutes the action of the council.
- (7) The Utah State University Hunger Solutions Institute shall provide staff support to the council.

Enacted by Chapter 94, 2022 General Session

53B-18-1703 Duties of Food Security Council -- Reporting.

- (1) The council shall:
- (a) develop statewide goals and messaging related to food security and nutrition education;
 - (b) coordinate statewide efforts to address food security;
 - (c) ensure that any state programs receiving federal funds from the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service provide consistent and coordinated nutrition education messaging;
 - (d) promote programs and activities that contribute to healthy eating and active lifestyles;
 - (e) promote programs and activities that advance Utah food products; and
 - (f) disseminate the statewide goals and messaging developed under Subsection (2) to state agencies.
- (2) On or before October 1 of each year, the council shall prepare and submit an annual written report to the Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee, the Education Interim Committee, and the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee that contains:
- (a) a description of the council's operations, activities, programs, and services; and
 - (b) any recommendations on how the state should act to address issues relating to food security.
- (3) The council may accept gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources for purposes of carrying out the council's duties.

Enacted by Chapter 94, 2022 General Session

Part 18
Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Research Center

53B-18-1801 Definitions.

As used in this part:

- (1) "Department of Environmental Quality" means the Department of Environmental Quality created in Section 19-1-104.
- (2) "Department of Transportation" means the Department of Transportation created in Section 72-1-201.
- (3) "Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity" means the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity created in Section 63N-1a-301.
- (4) "Industry advisory board" means the industry advisory board created in accordance with Section 53B-18-1804.
- (5) "Initiative" means the strategic planning and development initiative to guide the transition to an electrified and intelligent transportation system in this state.
- (6) "Large public transit district" means the same as that term is defined in Section 17B-2a-802.
- (7) "Office of Energy Development" means the Office of Energy Development created in Section 79-6-401.
- (8) "Project director" means the project director of the research center appointed under Subsection 53B-18-1802(2)(b).
- (9) "Research center" means the ASPIRE Engineering Research Center at Utah State University.
- (10) "Steering committee" means the Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Steering Committee created in Section 53B-18-1803.

Enacted by Chapter 494, 2023 General Session

53B-18-1802 Research center -- Designation -- Duties.

- (1) The ASPIRE Engineering Research Center at Utah State University is designated as the lead research center to coordinate and lead the initiative described in this part.
- (2) The research center shall:
 - (a) direct and carry out the mission of the initiative;
 - (b) appoint a project director to oversee the initiative; and
 - (c) provide administrative and staff support to the steering committee and industry advisory board.
- (3) The project director shall:
 - (a) oversee the operations of the initiative; and
 - (b) propose to the steering committee the expenditure of funds appropriated by the Legislature to carry out the duties under this part.

Enacted by Chapter 494, 2023 General Session

53B-18-1803 Steering committee -- Creation -- Duties.

- (1) There is created the Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Steering Committee.
- (2) The Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Steering Committee consists of the following members:
 - (a) the executive director of the Department of Transportation, or the executive director's designee;
 - (b) the executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality, or the executive director's designee;
 - (c) the director of the Office of Energy Development, or the director's designee;

- (d) the executive director of a large public transit district, or the executive director's designee;
 - (e) the executive director of the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, or the executive director's designee;
 - (f) one representative of a major electrical power provider in the state, appointed by the governor; and
 - (g) the chair of the industry advisory board created in Section 53B-18-1804.
- (3) The steering committee member representing the Department of Transportation shall serve as the chair of the steering committee.
- (4) The steering committee shall:
- (a) provide direction to the project director on the nature and priorities of the strategic planning and development initiative;
 - (b) assist the project director in the development of a strategic action plan and implementation related to the electrification of transportation infrastructure;
 - (c) approve annual reports on the strategic planning and development initiative as required in Section 53B-18-1806;
 - (d) consider and approve the budget proposed by the project director for the expenditure of funds for the initiative; and
 - (e) review expenditures authorized by the project director made before October 1, 2023.
- (5) The steering committee shall convene no later than October 1, 2023.

Enacted by Chapter 494, 2023 General Session

53B-18-1804 Industry advisory board -- Duties.

- (1) The research center shall create an industry advisory board with members selected from the following relevant sectors:
- (a) electrical power providers;
 - (b) electric bus manufacturers;
 - (c) electric vehicle manufacturers;
 - (d) electric passenger or freight rail manufacturers;
 - (e) electric aircraft manufacturers;
 - (f) electric freight truck manufacturers;
 - (g) high-capacity battery manufacturers;
 - (h) large fiber-optic or high-speed Internet providers;
 - (i) transportation infrastructure companies;
 - (j) charging component, systems, or network providers;
 - (k) smart or artificial intelligence-integrated infrastructure providers; and
 - (l) any other sector that the research center determines is substantially necessary to fulfilling the initiative goals.
- (2) The industry advisory board members shall designate the chair and other officers of the industry advisory board.
- (3) The industry advisory board shall:
- (a) assist the project director in operating the strategic planning and development initiative with insights and needs from across the industries;
 - (b) develop a chapter to be included in each annual report that describes the industry support and perspectives relative to the analysis and recommendations provided in the annual report; and
 - (c) provide at least one representative to participate in briefings to interim or appropriations committees of the Legislature.

Enacted by Chapter 494, 2023 General Session

53B-18-1805 Duties of the project director.

- (1) The project director and the steering committee shall consult the following parties in developing and carrying out the initiative:
 - (a) representatives of each sector described in the industry advisory board membership in Subsection 53B-18-1804(1), regardless of whether that sector is actually represented on the industry advisory board;
 - (b) institutions of higher education, including institutions of technical education, both inside and outside this state;
 - (c) the chairs of the following committees of the Legislature:
 - (i) the Transportation and Infrastructure Appropriations Subcommittee;
 - (ii) the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee; and
 - (iii) the Transportation Interim Committee; and
 - (d) any other persons or entities the steering committee determines are relevant or necessary to fulfilling the stated mission.
- (2) The project director, in consultation with the steering committee and the industry advisory board, shall lead an outreach and promotional effort to:
 - (a) build awareness among stakeholders, industry partners, federal agencies, and the state's congressional delegation of the state's efforts to be a national leader in electrifying the state's transportation system; and
 - (b) attract industry partners and industry and federal investment to the state to design, develop, and deliver systems to promote and implement the initiative.
- (3) The project director shall:
 - (a) oversee the operations of the initiative; and
 - (b) propose to the steering committee the program budget for the expenditure of funds appropriated by the Legislature to carry out the duties under this part.
- (4)
 - (a) The project director may, in accordance with this part, and subject to this Subsection (4), expend funds appropriated by the Legislature.
 - (b)
 - (i) Before October 1, 2023, the project director may not expend more than 25% of the annual project budget.
 - (ii) At the first meeting of the steering committee, the project director shall:
 - (A) provide a detailed account to the steering committee for all expenditures made before October 1, 2023; and
 - (B) present a budget proposal for the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.
 - (iii) Before October 1, 2023, the project director may expend funds for the following purposes:
 - (A) establish necessary and time-sensitive groundwork for development of the vision and strategic objective of the initiative;
 - (B) acquisition of materials needed for the initiative; and
 - (C) costs to hire and pay salaries of staff.
 - (c) Except as described in Subsection (4)(b), the project director:
 - (i) shall propose an annual budget for the initiative; and
 - (ii) may not expend funds appropriated to the research center outside of the approved budget without approval of the steering committee.

Amended by Chapter 271, 2025 General Session

53B-18-1806 Project development and strategic objectives -- Reporting requirements.

- (1)
- (a) The research center shall develop and define an action plan for the electrification of transportation infrastructure in this state.
 - (b) The research center shall provide a report of the action plan that includes:
 - (i) a description of the ideal electrified transportation system and incremental steps to implement the action plan over 10-year, 20-year, and 30-year time horizons, including a description of a transportation system that:
 - (A) provides intelligent coordination for vehicular traffic and charging individually and collectively into a dynamically communicative transportation system that links to and coordinates with the electric grid;
 - (B) integrates across and supports all modes of transportation and vehicle classes in complementary ways;
 - (C) integrates with hydrogen and renewable natural gas generation, storage, grid support, and fuel cell vehicles in complementary ways; and
 - (D) provides improved air quality, reduced cost to move people and goods, and new jobs and economic growth in the state;
 - (ii) strategic objectives in each element of the action plan above that are necessary to realize the action plan;
 - (iii) an initial description of changes needed to realize the action plan in each of the following sectors across the ecosystem:
 - (A) electrical power generation, distribution, and utility-scale energy storage infrastructure and capacity, including reliability, cost, and availability standards;
 - (B) interconnected smart charging infrastructure, intelligent transportation systems, control systems, and communications systems to facilitate the transition to electrified transportation;
 - (C) private surface transportation, including passenger vehicles, freight trucks, and freight trains;
 - (D) public surface transportation, including passenger vehicles, buses, and trains;
 - (E) air transportation, including private commercial aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems;
 - (F) vehicles that operate off-highway, including construction, mining, and agriculture;
 - (G) charging technology, solutions, and systems, including charging stations and shared use of infrastructure across modes of transportation and vehicle classes;
 - (H) workforce, including analysis of the capacity and types of education, vocations, trades, and certifications necessary in each relevant sector to develop the local workforce needed to accomplish the vision; and
 - (I) any other sector that the steering committee determines is substantially necessary to fulfilling the stated mission;
 - (iv) identification of key gaps in the ecosystem from the sectors and industries described in this Subsection (1)(b) that serve as priorities for near term innovation and investment;
 - (v) evaluation of risk and vulnerability of relevant supply chains, including natural resources to ensure stability and availability; and
 - (vi) an accounting of funds appropriated to or received by the research center, and any expenditure of those funds.

- (c) Before August 1, 2024, the research center shall report on the action plan described in this Subsection (1) to the Transportation and Infrastructure Appropriations Subcommittee of the Legislature.
- (2) Beginning in 2025, before August 1 of each year, the research center shall provide an annual report to the Transportation and Infrastructure Appropriations Subcommittee of the Legislature, including:
 - (a) an updated and prioritized list of strategic objectives identified in the initial report described in Subsection (1)(b);
 - (b) any actionable goals established or recommended by the research center;
 - (c) a prioritized list of steps to accomplish the goals and strategic objectives identified by the research center;
 - (d) metrics to measure the effectiveness of any goals or strategic objectives and related analysis;
 - (e) the research center's progress and effort in developing a long-range strategy for implementation of the action plan;
 - (f) the research center's efforts in and results of outreach to relevant industry, government, and investment sectors;
 - (g) any recommendations on potential legislation to implement the action plan; and
 - (h) an accounting of funds appropriated to or received by the research center, and any expenditure of those funds.
- (3) Before November 30, 2027, the Transportation Interim Committee shall consider whether to continue the initiative as described in this part or allow the repeal of this part as described in Section 631-1-253.

Amended by Chapter 271, 2025 General Session

Part 19

Center for Civic Excellence

53B-18-1901 Definitions.

As used in this part:

- (1) "Center" means the Center for Civic Excellence established in Section 53B-18-1902.
- (2) "Program" means the general education program at Utah State University.

Enacted by Chapter 163, 2025 General Session

53B-18-1902 Center for Civic Excellence establishment -- Purpose.

There is established the Center for Civic Excellence as a pilot program and an administrative unit in the Office of the Provost at Utah State University to:

- (1) provide general education for all Utah State University students;
- (2) replace the existing distribution model of general education with a coherent curriculum with a foundation of the core values, principles, and purposes described in Section 53B-18-1906; and
- (3) develop a curriculum grounded in the following mission:
 - (a) engaging students in civil and rigorous intellectual inquiry, across ideological differences, with a commitment to intellectual freedom in the pursuit of truth;
 - (b) ensuring, through engagement with foundational primary texts representing "the best of what has been thought and said," that all graduates, regardless of the graduate's major, engage

with the "big questions, great debates, and enduring ideas" that continue to shape society's self-understanding, the American experience, and the modern world; and

- (c) cultivating students' intellectual and personal habits of mind to enable the students to contribute and thrive in the students' economic, social, political, and personal lives with a focus on civil discourse, critical thinking about enduring questions, wise decision-making, and durable skills.

Enacted by Chapter 163, 2025 General Session

53B-18-1903 Duties -- Authority.

The Center for Civic Excellence shall:

- (1) serve as the program home of general education at Utah State University;
- (2)
 - (a) govern faculty over all general education curriculum; and
 - (b) establish a faculty curriculum committee to develop and review program outcomes and all courses;
- (3) develop and assess the program and all general education courses, ensuring alignment with the purposes and commitments described in Sections 53B-18-1902 and 53B-18-1906;
- (4) appoint and evaluate all instructors who will teach general education courses at Utah State University; and
- (5) provide professional development for instructors teaching in the program to ensure fidelity to the program's purposes, values, and outcomes.

Enacted by Chapter 163, 2025 General Session

53B-18-1904 Leadership.

- (1)
 - (a) The Office of the Provost shall house the center.
 - (b) The provost shall appoint a vice-provost to:
 - (i) lead the center; and
 - (ii) report to the provost regarding the operation of the center and the general education program.
- (2) The vice-provost overseeing the center shall:
 - (a) appoint faculty to the center's curriculum committee;
 - (b) oversee the development and assessment of the general education program and the program's courses;
 - (c) manage the recruitment of affiliate instructors from other academic units;
 - (d) approve appointments of affiliate instructors who will teach for the center;
 - (e) approve syllabi from affiliate instructors who will teach for the center;
 - (f) oversee the development of performance expectations for affiliate faculty;
 - (g) manage the evaluation of affiliate instructors; and
 - (h) manage the review and approval of petitions for exceptions for general education requirements.

Enacted by Chapter 163, 2025 General Session

53B-18-1905 Faculty.

- (1) Only an instructor whom the vice-provost leading the center grants an appointment as an affiliate instructor in the center may teach general education courses at Utah State University.
- (2) In appointing an instructor under Subsection (1), the vice-provost leading the center shall:
 - (a) grant an at-will appointment on a two-year, renewable basis;
 - (b) require the instructor to engage with all professional development the center mandates; and
 - (c)
 - (i) ensure the center annually evaluates the instructor on the instructor's teaching performance in the general education program; and
 - (ii) deliver the performance evaluation to the faculty member, department head, and dean.

Enacted by Chapter 163, 2025 General Session

53B-18-1906 Curriculum.

- (1) The center shall:
 - (a) govern the general education program and general education courses at Utah State University; and
 - (b) ensure that:
 - (i) the general education program aligns with the general education program requirements described in board policy; and
 - (ii) there is general education transferability to and from Utah State University and other institutions within the Utah System of Higher Education.
- (2) The center is founded on the following principles, values, and purposes:
 - (a) a commitment to viewpoint diversity and civil discourse, ensuring that students understand opposing points of view and can contribute in the public square in civil and productive ways;
 - (b) the development of program outcomes and courses that engage students in enduring questions of meaning, purpose, and value; and
 - (c) the cultivation in students of the durable skills necessary to thrive in educational, social, political, economic, and personal contexts.
- (3) The center shall ensure, within the general education program:
 - (a) a cap of 30 credits;
 - (b) the integration of six written and oral communication credits with three humanities credits;
 - (c) that three three-credit courses in the humanities:
 - (i) engage with perennial questions about the human condition, the meaning of life, and the nature of social and moral lives;
 - (ii) emphasize foundational thinking and communication skills through engagement with primary texts predominantly from Western civilization, such as:
 - (A) the intellectual contributions of ancient Israel, ancient Greece, and Rome; and
 - (B) the rise of Christianity, medieval Europe, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and post-Enlightenment;
 - (iii) include texts for each course that are historically distributed from antiquity to the present from figures with lasting literary, philosophical, and historical influence, such as Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Lao Tzu, Cicero, Maimonides, Boethius, Shakespeare, Mill, Woolf, and Achebe; and
 - (iv) are organized around themes central to the preservation and flourishing of a free society, such as the moral life, happiness, liberty, equality and justice, and goodness and beauty; and
 - (d) that one three-credit course in American institutions:

- (i) engages students with the major debates and ideas that inform the historical development of the republican form of government of the United States of America;
 - (ii) focus on the founding principles of American government, economics, and history, such as natural rights, liberty, equality, constitutional self-government, and market systems; and
 - (iii) use primary source material, such as:
 - (A) the Magna Carta, the United States Constitution, the Federalist Papers; and
 - (B) material from thinkers, such as Marcus Aurelius, Seneca, Adam Smith, John Locke, Montesquieu, and Alexis de Tocqueville.
- (4) The vice-provost overseeing the center:
- (a) shall ensure that the center:
 - (i) no less than seven days before the first day of class for a given semester or other academic term during which the institution offers a course, makes available to the public on the institution's website a syllabus for each section of the courses in the humanities described in Subsection (3) that:
 - (A) provide the section number;
 - (B) provides a brief description of each major assignment and examination;
 - (C) lists any required or recommended reading; and
 - (D) provides a general description of the subject matter of each lecture or discussion;
 - (E) is accessible from the home page of the institution's website by use of not more than three links;
 - (F) is searchable by keywords and phrases; and
 - (G) is accessible to the public without requiring registration, use of a user name and password, or another method of user identification;
 - (ii) continues to make the information described in Subsection (4)(a) available on the center's website until at least the second anniversary of the date on which the center initially posted the information; and
 - (iii) updates the information described in Subsection (4)(a) as soon as practicable after the information changes; and
 - (b) may assign duties under this Subsection (4) to one or more administrative employees.

Enacted by Chapter 163, 2025 General Session

53B-18-1907 Oversight -- Reporting.

- (1) The vice-provost leading the center shall submit an annual report:
 - (a) to the provost, president of the institution, and the commissioner;
 - (b) that includes a mission-based accounting of:
 - (i) program and instructor performance and goals for improvement;
 - (ii) professional development offerings and future goals;
 - (iii) the course offerings and syllabus publication described in Section 53B-18-1906; and
 - (iv) a full account of the center's budget.
- (2) The commissioner shall report annually to the Education Interim Committee regarding the implementation and activities of the center.
- (3) Each year, the center shall:
 - (a) assess the quality of teaching and adherence to program principles, values, and goals;
 - (b) identify expectations for addressing deficiencies or for continued improvement; and
 - (c) share the review described in Subsections (2)(a) and (b) with appropriate department heads.
- (4) Before July 1, 2029, the center shall:
 - (a) report to the board educational outcomes and impacts of the pilot program;

- (b) provide recommendations for system-wide general education curriculum; and
 - (c) report to the Education Interim Committee regarding the implementation and activities of the center.
- (5) Based on the pilot program's outcomes, the board shall, in consultation with academic experts, pedagogical specialists, and institutional stakeholders, develop a proposed core of system-wide general education courses aligned with the educational principles of this section.

Enacted by Chapter 163, 2025 General Session