

**UTAH MARRIAGE COMMISSION**

2013 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: LaVar Christensen**

Senate Sponsor: John L. Valentine

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies the Utah ~~H→~~ **[Health] Human Services** ~~←H~~ Code to create the Utah Marriage Commission.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

▶ creates the Utah Marriage Commission within the Department of ~~H→~~ **[Health] Human Services** ~~←H~~; and

▶ establishes the duties of the commission.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

~~H→~~ [~~26-1-40~~] **62A-1-120** ~~←H~~, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. ~~H→~~ [~~Section 26-1-40~~] **62A-1-120** ~~←H~~ is enacted to read:

~~H→~~ [~~26-1-40~~] **62A-1-120** ~~←H~~, **Utah Marriage Commission.**

(1) As used in this section, "commission" means the Utah Marriage Commission created by this section.

(2) There is created within the department the "Utah Marriage Commission."



28 (3) The commission shall consist of 17 members appointed as follows:

29 (a) two members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate;

30 (b) two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the  
 31 House of Representatives;

32 (c) six ~~representatives~~ **current or former** representatives from marriage and family

32a **studies** departments, **social or behavioral sciences departments, health sciences**

32b **departments, colleges of law, or other related and supporting departments** at

32c **[state]** institutions of

33 higher education ~~representatives~~ **[, as defined in Section 53B-3-102,]** in this state, as shall be appointed by  
 33a the governor;

34 (d) five representatives ~~representatives~~ **selected and** appointed by the governor from

34a **among** the following groups:

35 (i) social workers who are or have been licensed under Title 58, Chapter 60, Part 2,

36 Social Worker Licensing Act;

37 (ii) psychologists who are or have been licensed under Title 58, Chapter 61,

38 Psychologist Licensing Act;

39 (iii) physicians who are or have been board certified in psychiatry and are or have been

40 licensed under Title 58, Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act;

41 (iv) marriage and family therapists who are or have been licensed under Title 58,

42 Chapter 60, Part 3, Marriage and Family Therapist Licensing Act; ~~or~~ ;

43 (v) representatives of faith communities; and

43a **public health professionals;**

43b **representatives of domestic violence prevention organizations; or**

43c **legal professionals; and** ~~representatives~~

44 (e) two representatives of the general public appointed by the members of the

45 commission appointed under Subsections (3)(a) through (d).

46 (4) (a) A member appointed under Subsections (3)(c) through (e) shall serve for a term

47 of four years. ~~A member may be appointed for subsequent terms.~~

48 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (4)(a), the governor shall, at the time of appointment

49 or reappointment, adjust the length of terms to ensure that the terms of commission members

50 are staggered so that approximately half of the commission is appointed every two years.

51 (c) A commission member shall serve until a replacement is appointed and qualified.

52 (d) When a vacancy occurs in the membership for any reason, the replacement shall be

53 appointed for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

54           (5) (a) The commission shall annually elect a chair from its membership.

55           (b) The commission shall hold meetings as needed to carry out its duties. A meeting  
56 may be held on the call of the chair or a majority of the commission members.

57           (c) Nine commission members constitute a quorum and, if a quorum exists, the action  
58 of a majority of commission members present constitutes the action of the commission.

59 (6) A commission member may not receive compensation or benefits for the  
60 commission member's service, but may receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance  
61 with:  
62 (a) Section 63A-3-106;  
63 (b) Section 63A-3-107; and  
64 (c) rules made by the Division of Finance pursuant to Sections 63A-3-106 and  
65 63A-3-107.  
66 (7) The department shall staff the commission.  
67 (8) The commission shall:  
68 (a) promote coalitions and collaborative efforts to uphold and encourage a strong and  
69 healthy culture of strong and lasting marriages ~~and~~ **and stable families** ;  
70 (b) contribute to greater awareness of the importance of marriage ~~and~~ **and** leading  
70a to reduced  
71 divorce and unwed parenthood in the state;  
72 (c) promote public policies that support marriage;  
73 (d) promote programs ~~and~~ **and activities** that educate ~~individuals and~~ **individuals and**  
73a couples on how to achieve strong, successful, and  
74 lasting marriages, including promoting and assisting in the offering of:  
75 (i) events;  
76 (ii) ~~classes and~~ **classes and** services ~~and~~ **and**, including those designed to promote strong,  
76a healthy, and lasting marriages and prevent domestic violence ~~and~~ ;  
77 (iii) marriage ~~and~~ **and relationship** education conferences ~~for the public and~~ **for the public and**  
77a professionals ~~and~~ ; and  
78 (iv) enrichment seminars; ~~and~~ **and**  
79 (e) actively promote measures designed to maintain and strengthen marriage, family,  
80 and the relationships between husband and wife and parents and children ~~and~~ [;] ; and  
80a (f) support volunteerism and private financial contributions and grants in partnership  
80b with the commission and in support of the commission's purposes and activities for the benefit  
80c of the state as provided in this section. ~~and~~  
81 (9) Funding for the commission shall be as approved by the Legislature through annual  
82 appropriations and the added funding sought by the commission from private contributions  
82a ~~and~~ **and grants** that  
83 support the duties of the commission described in Subsection (8).

Legislative Review Note  
as of 2-15-13 4:15 PM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel