1	SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MEDICAL EXAMINER
2	PROVISIONS
3	2018 GENERAL SESSION
4	STATE OF UTAH
5	Chief Sponsor: Steve Eliason
6	Senate Sponsor:
7 8	LONG TITLE
9	General Description:
0	This bill makes modifications to suicide prevention and medical examiner provisions.
1	Highlighted Provisions:
2	This bill:
3	defines terms;
4	 amends provisions regarding medical examiner records;
5	 expands the scope of youth suicide prevention programs in public school districts
6	and charter schools;
7	 creates the suicide prevention workgroup within the Utah Substance Use and
8	Mental Health Advisory Council;
9	 establishes the Suicide Prevention Workgroup Expendable Special Revenue Fund;
0.	and
21	makes technical changes.
22	Money Appropriated in this Bill:
23	None
24	Other Special Clauses:
25	None
26	Utah Code Sections Affected:
27	AMENDS:



28	26-4-2, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 297
29	26-4-11, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1993, Chapter 38
30	26-4-17, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1996, Chapter 201
31	53G-9-702, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 3
32	63M-7-301, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2017, Chapter 163
33	63M-7-303, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapter 158
34	ENACTS:
35	63M-7-307, Utah Code Annotated 1953
36	63M-7-308, Utah Code Annotated 1953
3738	Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
39	Section 1. Section 26-4-2 is amended to read:
40	26-4-2. Definitions.
41	As used in this chapter:
42	(1) "Dead body" is as defined in Section 26-2-2.
43	(2) "Death by violence" means death that resulted by the decedent's exposure to
44	physical, mechanical, or chemical forces, and includes death which appears to have been due to
45	homicide, death which occurred during or in an attempt to commit rape, mayhem, kidnapping,
46	robbery, burglary, housebreaking, extortion, or blackmail accompanied by threats of violence,
47	assault with a dangerous weapon, assault with intent to commit any offense punishable by
48	imprisonment for more than one year, arson punishable by imprisonment for more than one
49	year, or any attempt to commit any of the foregoing offenses.
50	(3) "Medical examiner" means the state medical examiner appointed pursuant to
51	Section 26-4-4 or a deputy appointed by the medical examiner.
52	(4) "Medical examiner record" means:
53	(a) all information that the medical examiner obtains regarding a decedent; and
54	(b) reports that the medical examiner makes regarding a decedent.
55	(5) "Next of kin" means the decedent's living spouse or closest living blood relative.
56	[(4)] (6) "Regional pathologist" means a trained pathologist licensed to practice
57	medicine and surgery in the state, appointed by the medical examiner pursuant to Subsection
58	26-4-4(3).

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[(5)] (7) "Sudden death while in apparent good health" means apparently instantaneous death without obvious natural cause, death during or following an unexplained syncope or coma, or death during an acute or unexplained rapidly fatal illness.

- [(6)] (8) "Sudden infant death syndrome" means the death of a child who was thought to be in good health or whose terminal illness appeared to be so mild that the possibility of a fatal outcome was not anticipated.
- [(7)] (9) "Suicide" means death caused by an intentional and voluntary act of a person who understands the physical nature of the act and intends by such act to accomplish self-destruction.
- [(8)] (10) "Unattended death" means the death of a person who has not been seen by a physician within the scope of the physician's professional capacity within 30 days immediately prior to the date of death. This definition does not require an investigation, autopsy, or inquest in any case where death occurred without medical attendance solely because the deceased was under treatment by prayer or spiritual means alone in accordance with the tenets and practices of a well-recognized church or religious denomination.
 - [(9)] (11) (a) "Unavailable for postmortem investigation" means that a dead body is:
- 75 (i) transported out of state;
- 76 (ii) buried at sea;

- 77 (iii) cremated; or
 - (iv) otherwise made unavailable to the medical examiner for postmortem investigation or autopsy.
 - (b) "Unavailable for postmortem investigation" does not include embalming or burial of a dead body pursuant to the requirements of law.
 - [(10)] (12) "Within the scope of the decedent's employment" means all acts reasonably necessary or incident to the performance of work, including matters of personal convenience and comfort not in conflict with specific instructions.
 - Section 2. Section **26-4-11** is amended to read:

26-4-11. Records and reports of investigations.

(1) A complete copy of all written records and reports of investigations and facts resulting from medical care treatment, autopsies conducted by any person on the body of the deceased who died in any manner listed in Section 26-4-7 and the written reports of any

90	investigative agency making inquiry into the incident shall be promptly made and filed with the
91	medical examiner.
92	(2) The judiciary or a state or local government entity that retains a record, other than a
93	document described in Subsection (1), of the decedent shall provide a copy of the record to the
94	medical examiner:
95	(a) in accordance with federal law; and
96	(b) upon receipt of the medical examiner's written request for the record.
97	(3) Failure to submit reports or records described in Subsection (1) or (2), other than
98	reports of a county attorney, district attorney, or law enforcement agency, [upon written request
99	from the medical examiner] within 10 days after the day on which the person in possession of
100	the report or record receives the medical examiner's written request for the report or record is a
101	class B misdemeanor.
102	Section 3. Section 26-4-17 is amended to read:
103	26-4-17. Records of medical examiner Confidentiality.
104	(1) The medical examiner shall [keep and maintain full and complete original records,]
105	maintain complete, original records for the medical examiner record, which shall:
106	(a) be properly indexed, giving the name, if known, or otherwise identifying every
107	[person] individual whose death is investigated[;];
108	(b) indicate the place where the body was found[-;];
109	(c) indicate the date[7] of death;
110	(d) indicate the cause and manner of death[;];
111	(e) indicate the occupation of the decedent, if available[, and];
112	(f) include all other relevant information concerning the death[. A]; and
113	(g) include a full report and detailed findings of the autopsy or report of the
114	investigation [shall be part of the record in each case].
115	[(2) The county attorney, the district attorney, the attorney general, or other law
116	enforcement official having jurisdiction may, upon written request, secure copies of the
117	original records where necessary for the performance of their duties.]
118	[(3) The medical examiner shall promptly deliver copies of all reports, findings, and
119	records gathered or compiled in the investigation of a death to the decedent's next-of-kin, legal
120	representative, or physicians who attended the decedent during the year before death, upon

121	their written request for the release of documents.]
122	[(4) The medical examiner shall maintain the confidentiality of the records which shall
123	be released as provided herein and upon payment of fees prescribed by the department under
124	Section 26-1-6.]
125	(2) Upon written request from an individual described in Subsections (2)(a) through
126	(d), the medical examiner shall provide a copy of the medical examiner's final report of
127	examination for the decedent, including the autopsy report, toxicology report, lab reports, and
128	investigative reports to:
129	(a) a decedent's next of kin;
130	(b) a decedent's legal representative;
131	(c) a physician who attended the decedent during the year before the decedent's death;
132	<u>or</u>
133	(d) as necessary for the performance of the individual's professional duties, a county
134	attorney, a district attorney, a criminal defense attorney, or other law enforcement official with
135	jurisdiction.
136	(3) Reports provided under Subsection (2) may not include records that the medical
137	examiner obtains from a third party in the course of investigating the decedent's death.
138	(4) The medical examiner may provide a medical examiner record to a researcher who:
139	(a) has an advanced degree;
140	(b) (i) is affiliated with an accredited college or university, a hospital, or another
141	system of care, including an emergency medical response or a local health agency; or
142	(ii) is part of a research firm contracted with an accredited college or university, a
143	hospital, or another system of care;
144	(c) requests a medical examiner record for a research project or a quality improvement
145	initiative that will have a public health benefit, as determined by the Department of Health; and
146	(d) provides to the medical examiner an approval from:
147	(i) the researcher's sponsoring organization; and
148	(ii) the Utah Department of Health Institutional Review Board.
149	(5) A person who obtains a medical examiner record under Subsection (4) shall:
150	(a) maintain the confidentiality of the medical examiner record by removing personally
151	identifying information about a decedent or the decedent's family and any other information

152	that may be used to identify a decedent before using the medical examiner record in research;
153	(b) limit the use of a medical examiner record to the purpose for which the person
154	requested the medical examiner record;
155	(c) destroy a medical examiner record and the data abstracted from the medical
156	examiner record at the conclusion of the research for which the person requested the medical
157	examiner record;
158	(d) reimburse the medical examiner, as provided in Section 26-1-6, for any costs
159	incurred by the medical examiner in providing a medical examiner record;
160	(e) allow the medical examiner to review, before public release, a publication in which
161	data from a medical examiner record is referenced or analyzed; and
162	(f) provide the medical examiner access to the researcher's database containing data
163	from a medical examiner record, until the day on which the researcher permanently destroys
164	the medical examiner record and all data obtained from the medical examiner record.
165	(6) Except as provided in this chapter or ordered by a court, the medical examiner may
166	not disclose any part of a medical examiner record.
167	(7) A person who obtains a medical examiner record under Subsection (5) is guilty of a
168	class B misdemeanor, if the person fails to comply with the requirements of Subsections (5)(a)
169	through (c).
170	Section 4. Section 53G-9-702 is amended to read:
171	53G-9-702. Youth suicide prevention programs required in secondary schools
172	State Board of Education to develop model programs Reporting requirements.
173	(1) As used in the section:
174	(a) "Board" means the State Board of Education.
175	(b) "Intervention" means an effort to prevent a student from attempting suicide.
176	(c) "Postvention" means mental health intervention after a suicide attempt or death to
177	prevent or contain contagion.
178	(d) "Program" means a youth suicide prevention program described in Subsection (2).
179	(e) "Public education suicide prevention coordinator" means an individual designated
180	by the board as described in Subsection (3).
181	(f) "Secondary grades":
182	(i) means grades 7 through 12; and

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183	(ii) if a middle or junior high school includes grade 6, includes grade 6.
184	(g) "State suicide prevention coordinator" means the state suicide prevention
185	coordinator described in Section 62A-15-1101.
186	[(2) (a) In collaboration with the public education suicide prevention coordinator, a
187	school district or charter school shall implement a youth suicide prevention program in the
188	secondary grades of the school district or charter school.]
189	[(b) A school district or charter school's program shall include the following
190	components:]
191	[(i) in collaboration with the training, programs, and initiatives described in Section
192	53G-9-607, programs and training to address]
193	(2) In collaboration with the public education suicide prevention coordinator, a school
194	district or charter school, in the secondary grades of the school district or charter school, shall
195	implement a youth suicide prevention program, which, in collaboration with the training,
196	programs, and initiatives described in Section 53G-9-607, shall include programs and training
197	to address:
198	(a) bullying and cyberbullying, as those terms are defined in Section 53G-9-601;
199	[(ii)] (b) prevention of youth [suicides] suicide;
200	[(iii)] (c) youth suicide intervention; [and]
201	[(iv)] (d) postvention for family, students, and faculty[:];
202	(e) underage drinking of alcohol;
203	(f) methods of strengthening the family; and
204	(g) methods of strengthening a youth's relationships in the school and community.
205	(3) The board shall:
206	(a) designate a public education suicide prevention coordinator; and
207	(b) in collaboration with the Department of Heath and the state suicide prevention
208	coordinator, develop model programs to provide to school districts and charter schools:
209	(i) program training; and
210	(ii) resources regarding the required components described in Subsection (2)(b).
211	(4) The public education suicide prevention coordinator shall:
212	(a) oversee the youth suicide prevention programs of school districts and charter
213	schools;

(b) coordinate prevention and postvention programs, services, and efforts with the state suicide prevention coordinator; and

(c) award grants in accordance with Section 53F-5-206.

- (5) A public school suicide prevention program may allow school personnel to ask a student questions related to youth suicide prevention, intervention, or postvention.
- (6) (a) Subject to legislative appropriation, the board may distribute money to a school district or charter school to be used to implement evidence-based practices and programs, or emerging best practices and programs, for preventing suicide in the school district or charter school.
- (b) The board shall distribute money under Subsection (6)(a) so that each school that enrolls students in grade 7 or a higher grade receives an allocation of at least \$500, or a lesser amount per school if the legislative appropriation is not sufficient to provide at least \$500 per school.
- (c) (i) A school shall use money allocated to the school under Subsection (6)(b) to implement evidence-based practices and programs, or emerging best practices and programs, for preventing suicide.
- (ii) Each school may select the evidence-based practices and programs, or emerging best practices and programs, for preventing suicide that the school implements.
- (7) (a) The board shall provide a written report, and shall orally report to the Legislature's Education Interim Committee, by the October 2015 meeting, jointly with the public education suicide prevention coordinator and the state suicide prevention coordinator, on:
- (i) the progress of school district and charter school youth suicide prevention programs, including rates of participation by school districts, charter schools, and students;
- (ii) the board's coordination efforts with the Department of Health and the state suicide prevention coordinator;
- (iii) the public education suicide prevention coordinator's model program for training and resources related to youth suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention;
 - (iv) data measuring the effectiveness of youth suicide programs;
- (v) funds appropriated to each school district and charter school for youth suicide prevention programs; and

245	(vi) five-year trends of youth suicides per school, school district, and charter school.
246	(b) School districts and charter schools shall provide to the board information that is
247	necessary for the board's report to the Legislature's Education Interim Committee as required in
248	Subsection (7)(a).
249	Section 5. Section 63M-7-301 is amended to read:
250	63M-7-301. Definitions Creation of council Membership Terms.
251	(1) [(a)] As used in this part[, "council"]:
252	(a) "Council" means the Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Council
253	created in this section.
254	(b) "Fund" means the Suicide Prevention Workgroup Expendable Special Revenue
255	<u>Fund.</u>
256	(c) "Workgroup" means the Utah Suicide Prevention Workgroup created in Section
257	<u>63M-7-307.</u>
258	[(b)] (2) There is created within the governor's office the Utah Substance Use and
259	Mental Health Advisory Council.
260	[(2)] (3) The council shall be comprised of the following voting members:
261	(a) the attorney general or the attorney general's designee;
262	(b) an elected county official appointed by the Utah Association of Counties;
263	(c) the commissioner of public safety or the commissioner's designee;
264	(d) the director of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health or the director's
265	designee;
266	(e) the state superintendent of public instruction or the superintendent's designee;
267	(f) the executive director of the Department of Health or the executive director's
268	designee;
269	(g) the executive director of the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice or the
270	executive director's designee;
271	(h) the executive director of the Department of Corrections or the executive director's
272	designee;
273	(i) the director of the Division of Juvenile Justice Services or the director's designee;
274	(j) the director of the Division of Child and Family Services or the director's designee;
275	(k) the chair of the Board of Pardons and Parole or the chair's designee;

2/6	(1) the director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs or the director's designee;
277	(m) the director of the Division of Indian Affairs or the director's designee;
278	(n) the state court administrator or the state court administrator's designee;
279	(o) a district court judge who presides over a drug court and who is appointed by the
280	chief justice of the Utah Supreme Court;
281	(p) a district court judge who presides over a mental health court and who is appointed
282	by the chief justice of the Utah Supreme Court;
283	(q) a juvenile court judge who presides over a drug court and who is appointed by the
284	chief justice of the Utah Supreme Court;
285	(r) a prosecutor appointed by the Statewide Association of Prosecutors;
286	(s) the chair or co-chair of each committee established by the council;
287	(t) the following members appointed to serve four-year terms:
288	(i) a member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of
289	Representatives;
290	(ii) a member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate; and
291	(iii) a representative appointed by the Utah League of Cities and Towns;
292	(u) the following members appointed by the governor to serve four-year terms:
293	(i) one resident of the state who has been personally affected by a substance use or
294	mental health disorder; and
295	(ii) one citizen representative; and
296	(v) in addition to the voting members described in Subsections (2)(a) through (u), the
297	following voting members appointed by a majority of the members described in Subsections
298	(2)(a) through (u) to serve four-year terms:
299	(i) one resident of the state who represents a statewide advocacy organization for
300	recovery from substance use disorders;
301	(ii) one resident of the state who represents a statewide advocacy organization for
302	recovery from mental illness;
303	(iii) one resident of the state who represents prevention professionals;
304	(iv) one resident of the state who represents treatment professionals;
305	(v) one resident of the state who represents the physical health care field;
306	(vi) one resident of the state who is a criminal defense attorney;

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307	(vii) one resident of the state who is a military servicemember or military veteran under
308	Section 53B-8-102;
309	(viii) one resident of the state who represents local law enforcement agencies; and
310	(ix) one representative of private service providers that serve youth with substance use
311	disorders or mental health disorders.
312	[(3) A person]
313	(4) An individual other than [a person] an individual described in Subsection [(2)] (3)
314	may not be appointed as a voting member of the council.
315	Section 6. Section 63M-7-303 is amended to read:
316	63M-7-303. Duties of council.
317	(1) The Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Council shall:
318	(a) provide leadership and generate unity for Utah's ongoing efforts to reduce and
319	eliminate the impact of substance use and mental health disorders in Utah through a
320	comprehensive and evidence-based prevention, treatment, and justice strategy;
321	(b) recommend and coordinate the creation, dissemination, and implementation of
322	statewide policies to address substance use and mental health disorders;
323	(c) facilitate planning for a balanced continuum of substance use and mental health
324	disorder prevention, treatment, and justice services;
325	(d) promote collaboration and mutually beneficial public and private partnerships;
326	(e) coordinate recommendations made by any committee created under Section
327	63M-7-302 or the workgroup created under Section 63M-7-307;
328	(f) analyze and provide an objective assessment of all proposed legislation concerning
329	substance use, mental health, and related issues;
330	(g) coordinate the implementation of Section 77-18-1.1 and related provisions in
331	Subsections 77-18-1(5)(b)(iii) and (iv), as provided in Section 63M-7-305; [and]
332	(h) comply with Section 32B-2-306[:]; and
333	(i) oversee the workgroup and administer the fund.
334	(2) The council shall meet quarterly or more frequently as determined necessary by the
335	chair.
336	(3) The council shall report its recommendations annually to the commission,
337	governor, the Legislature, and the Judicial Council.

338	Section 7. Section 63M-7-307 is enacted to read:
339	63M-7-307. Suicide Prevention Workgroup.
340	(1) There is created the Utah Suicide Prevention Workgroup within the council.
341	(2) The workgroup shall:
342	(a) develop and implement multifaceted, comprehensive, and coordinated programs
343	that target and address suicide prevention, including programs to:
344	(i) teach suicide prevention skills that will reduce suicide risk factors for youth and
345	their families;
346	(ii) assist children and youth to strengthen their relationships with family members,
347	peers, school personnel, and members of their communities; and
348	(iii) increase access to evidence-based mental health services for youth;
349	(b) promote resiliency;
350	(c) support individuals impacted by suicide;
351	(d) support child and youth suicide prevention programs;
352	(e) develop a system for measuring the effectiveness of a program that is developed,
353	implemented, or supported by the workgroup;
354	(f) submit a report on or before October 1 of each year to the council, the governor, and
355	the Health and Human Services Interim Committee that:
356	(i) describes the programs that the workgroup studied, developed, implemented, or
357	supported;
358	(ii) evaluates the effectiveness of each program described in Subsection (2)(f)(i) under
359	the system developed under Subsection (2)(e); and
360	(iii) makes recommendations regarding changes to law or policy that the workgroup
361	determines will promote suicide prevention; and
362	(g) perform other duties, as specified by the council.
363	(3) The workgroup shall be comprised of up to 21 members, including:
364	(a) the suicide prevention coordinator, described in Section 62A-15-1101, who shall
365	also serve as chair of the workgroup;
366	(b) one member of the Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate;
367	(c) one member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the
368	House of Representatives;

369	(d) the governor, or the governor's designee;
370	(e) the public education suicide prevention coordinator, described in Section
371	<u>53A-15-1301;</u>
372	(f) the psychological autopsy examiner, described in Section 26-4-28.5;
373	(g) the director of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, or the director's
374	designee;
375	(h) the director of the Division of Juvenile Justice Services, or the director's designee;
376	(i) the executive director of the Department of Health, or the executive director's
377	designee;
378	(j) the executive director of the University Neuropsychiatric Institute;
379	(k) one representative of the Office of the Attorney General, appointed by the attorney
380	general;
381	(1) a member of the State Board of Education, appointed by the chair of the State Board
382	of Education;
383	(m) the dean of the University of Utah School of Medicine, or the dean's designee;
384	(n) two individuals who are mental or behavioral health clinicians licensed to practice
385	in the state, appointed by the chair of the council, at least one of whom is an individual who:
386	(i) is licensed as a physician under:
387	(A) Title 58, Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act;
388	(B) Title 58, Chapter 67b, Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; or
389	(C) Title 58, Chapter 68, Utah Osteopathic Medical Practice Act; and
390	(ii) is board eligible for a psychiatry specialization recognized by the American Board
391	of Medical Specialists or the American Osteopathic Association's Bureau of Osteopathic
392	Specialists;
393	(o) the chair of the underage drinking prevention workgroup, established within the
394	council in Subsection 32B-2-306(4)(b);
395	(p) an individual designated by the Utah Association of Counties; and
396	(q) additional members, as the chair of the council designates.
397	(4) (a) A member who is not a legislator may not receive compensation or benefits for
398	the member's service, but may receive per diem and travel expenses as allowed in:
399	(i) Section 63A-3-106;

400	(ii) Section 63A-3-107; and
401	(iii) rules made by the Division of Finance according to Sections 63A-3-106 and
402	<u>63A-3-107.</u>
403	(b) Compensation and expenses of a member who is a legislator are governed by
404	Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5, Legislative Compensation and Expenses.
405	Section 8. Section 63M-7-308 is enacted to read:
406	63M-7-308. Suicide Prevention Workgroup Expendable Special Revenue Fund.
407	(1) There is created an expendable special revenue fund known as the "Suicide
408	Prevention Workgroup Expendable Special Revenue Fund."
409	(2) The fund shall consist of:
410	(a) grants from local governments or the state;
411	(b) grants or donations from private entities; and
412	(c) interest on fund money.
413	(3) With the approval of the council, the workgroup may use fund money for:
414	(a) administrative costs, not to exceed 10% of total expenses in a year; and
415	(b) accomplishing the responsibilities described in Subsection 63M-7-308(2).
416	(4) The council shall, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
417	Rulemaking Act, make rules establishing guidelines for how money in the fund may be used,
418	including:
419	(a) a project funding application process;
420	(b) project funding requirements;
421	(c) project approval criteria; and
422	(d) standards for evaluating the effectiveness of funded projects.

Legislative Review Note Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel