

**Representative Melissa G. Ballard** proposes the following substitute bill:

**MARRIAGE COMMISSION AMENDMENTS**

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Melissa G. Ballard**

Senate Sponsor: Todd D. Weiler

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill makes changes pertaining to the Utah Marriage Commission.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ moves oversight responsibility of the Utah Marriage Commission from the Department of Human Services to Utah State University;
- ▶ changes the membership of the Utah Marriage Commission;
- ▶ modifies provisions relating to appointment, reappointment, and removal of commission members;
- ▶ repeals the sunset date for the marriage license fee, replacing it with a reporting requirement; and
- ▶ repeals sunset date provisions related to pre-marriage counseling and education.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**



26 AMENDS:

27 17-16-21, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 347

28 30-1-34, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 347

29 63I-1-217, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Sixth Special Session, Chapter 18

30 63I-1-230, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 354

31 63I-1-262, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 154, 303, 304, and 358

32 ENACTS:

33 63M-14-101, Utah Code Annotated 1953

34 63M-14-102, Utah Code Annotated 1953

35 63M-14-201, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36 63M-14-202, Utah Code Annotated 1953

37 63M-14-203, Utah Code Annotated 1953

38 63M-14-204, Utah Code Annotated 1953

39 63M-14-205, Utah Code Annotated 1953

40 63M-14-206, Utah Code Annotated 1953

41 REPEALS:

42 62A-1-120, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 347



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

45 Section 1. Section 17-16-21 is amended to read:

46 **17-16-21. Fees of county officers.**

47 (1) As used in this section, "county officer" means a county officer enumerated in  
48 Section 17-53-101 except a county recorder, a county constable, or a county sheriff.

49 (2) (a) A county officer shall collect, in advance, for exclusive county use and benefit:

50 (i) a fee established by the county legislative body under Section 17-53-211; and

51 (ii) any other fee authorized or required by law.

52 (b) As long as the Children's Legal Defense Account is authorized by Section

53 51-9-408, the county clerk shall:

54 (i) assess \$10 in addition to whatever fee for a marriage license is established under  
55 authority of this section; and

56 (ii) transmit \$10 from each marriage license fee to the Division of Finance for deposit

57 in the Children's Legal Defense Account.

58 (c) (i) As long as the Division of Child and Family Services, created in Section  
59 62A-4a-103, has the responsibility under Section 62A-4a-105 to provide services, including  
60 temporary shelter, for victims of domestic violence, the county clerk shall:

61 (A) collect \$10 in addition to whatever fee for a marriage license is established under  
62 authority of this section and in addition to the amount described in Subsection (2)(b), if an  
63 applicant chooses, as provided in Subsection (2)(c)(ii), to pay the additional \$10; and

64 (B) to the extent actually paid, transmit \$10 from each marriage license fee to the  
65 Division of Finance for distribution to the Division of Child and Family Services for the  
66 operation of shelters for victims of domestic violence.

67 (ii) (A) The county clerk shall provide a method for an applicant for a marriage license  
68 to choose to pay the additional \$10 referred to in Subsection (2)(c)(i).

69 (B) An applicant for a marriage license may choose not to pay the additional \$10  
70 referred to in Subsection (2)(c)(i) without affecting the applicant's ability to be issued a  
71 marriage license.

72 (d) If a county operates an online marriage application system, the county clerk of that  
73 county:

74 (i) may assess \$20 in addition to the other fees for a marriage license established under  
75 this section;

76 (ii) except as provided in Subsection (2)(d)(iii), shall transmit \$20 from the marriage  
77 license fee to the state treasurer for deposit annually as follows:

78 (A) the first \$400,000 shall accrue to the Utah Marriage Commission, created in  
79 ~~[Section 62A-1-120]~~ Title 63M, Chapter 14, Utah Marriage Commission, as dedicated credits  
80 for the operation of the Utah Marriage Commission; and

81 (B) proceeds in excess of \$400,000 shall be deposited into the General Fund; and

82 (iii) may not transmit \$20 from the marriage license fee to the state treasurer under this  
83 Subsection (2)(d) if both individuals seeking the marriage license certify that they have  
84 completed premarital counseling or education in accordance with Section 30-1-34.

85 (3) This section does not apply to a fee currently being assessed by the state but  
86 collected by a county officer.

87 Section 2. Section 30-1-34 is amended to read:

88           **30-1-34. Completion of counseling or education.**

89           (1) The county clerk of a county that operates an online marriage application system  
90 and issues a marriage license to applicants who certify completion of premarital counseling or  
91 education in accordance with Subsection (2) shall reduce the marriage license fee by \$20.

92           (2) (a) To qualify for the reduced fee under Subsection (1), the applicants shall certify  
93 completion of premarital counseling or education in accordance with this Subsection (2).

94           (b) To complete premarital counseling or education, the applicants:

95           (i) shall obtain the premarital counseling or education from:

96           (A) a licensed or ordained minister or the minister's designee who is trained by the  
97 minister or denomination to conduct premarital counseling or education;

98           (B) an individual licensed under Title 58, Chapter 60, Mental Health Professional  
99 Practice Act;

100           (C) an individual certified by a national organization recognized by the Utah Marriage  
101 Commission, created in [~~Section 62A-1-120~~] Title 63M, Chapter 14, Utah Marriage  
102 Commission, as a family life educator;

103           (D) a family and consumer sciences educator;

104           (E) an individual who is an instructor approved by a premarital education curriculum  
105 that meets the requirements of Subsection (2)(b)(ii); or

106           (F) an online course approved by the Utah Marriage Commission;

107           (ii) shall receive premarital counseling or education that includes information on  
108 important factors associated with strong and healthy marriages, including:

109           (A) commitment in marriage; and

110           (B) effective communication and problem-solving skills, including avoiding violence  
111 and abuse in the relationship;

112           (iii) shall complete at least three hours of premarital counseling or six hours of  
113 premarital education meeting the requirements of this Subsection (2); and

114           (iv) shall complete the premarital counseling or education meeting the requirements of  
115 this Subsection (2) not more than one year before but at least 14 days before the day on which  
116 the marriage license is issued.

117           (c) Although applicants are encouraged to take the premarital counseling or education  
118 together, each applicant may comply with the requirements of this Subsection (2) separately.

119 (3) A provider of premarital counseling or education under this section is encouraged  
120 to use research-based relationship inventories.

121 Section 3. Section **63I-1-217** is amended to read:

122 **63I-1-217. Repeal dates, Title 17.**

123 [~~(1)~~ Subsection ~~17-16-21(2)(d)~~ is repealed July 1, 2023.]

124 [~~(2)~~] Title 17, Chapter 21a, Part 3, Administration and Standards, which creates the  
125 Utah Electronic Recording Commission, is repealed July 1, 2022.

126 Section 4. Section **63I-1-230** is amended to read:

127 **63I-1-230. Repeal dates, Title 30.**

128 [Sections ~~30-1-34~~ and ~~30-1-36~~ are repealed July 1, 2023.]

129 Section 5. Section **63I-1-262** is amended to read:

130 **63I-1-262. Repeal dates, Title 62A.**

131 [~~(1)~~ Subsections ~~62A-1-120(8)(g), (h), and (i)~~ relating to completion of premarital  
132 counseling or education under Section ~~30-1-34~~ are repealed July 1, 2023.]

133 [~~(2)~~] (1) Section ~~62A-3-209~~ is repealed July 1, 2023.

134 [~~(3)~~] (2) Section ~~62A-4a-202.9~~ is repealed December 31, 2021.

135 [~~(4)~~] (3) Section ~~62A-4a-213~~ is repealed July 1, 2024.

136 [~~(5)~~] (4) Sections ~~62A-5a-101, 62A-5a-102, 62A-5a-103, and 62A-5a-104~~, which  
137 create the Coordinating Council for Persons with Disabilities, are repealed July 1, 2022.

138 [~~(6)~~] (5) Section ~~62A-15-114~~ is repealed December 31, 2021.

139 [~~(7)~~] (6) Subsections ~~62A-15-116(1) and (4)~~, the language that states "In consultation  
140 with the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Commission, established in Section ~~63C-18-202~~,"  
141 is repealed January 1, 2023.

142 [~~(8)~~] (7) Section ~~62A-15-118~~ is repealed December 31, 2023.

143 [~~(9)~~] (8) Subsections ~~62A-15-605(3)(h) and (4)~~ relating to the study of long-term needs  
144 for adult beds in the state hospital are repealed July 1, 2022.

145 [~~(10)~~] (9) Section ~~62A-15-605~~, which creates the Forensic Mental Health Coordinating  
146 Council, is repealed July 1, 2023.

147 [~~(11)~~] (10) Subsections ~~62A-15-1100(1) and 62A-15-1101(9)~~, in relation to the Utah  
148 Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Council, are repealed January 1, 2023.

149 [~~(12)~~] (11) In relation to the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Commission, on July

150 1, 2023:

151 (a) Subsections 62A-15-1301(2) and 62A-15-1401(1) are repealed;

152 (b) Subsection 62A-15-1302(1)(b), the language that states "and in consultation with  
153 the commission" is repealed;

154 (c) Section 62A-15-1303, the language that states "In consultation with the  
155 commission," is repealed;

156 (d) Subsection 62A-15-1402(2)(a), the language that states "With recommendations  
157 from the commission," is repealed; and

158 (e) Subsection 62A-15-1702(6) is repealed.

159 Section 6. Section 63M-14-101 is enacted to read:

160 **CHAPTER 14. UTAH MARRIAGE COMMISSION**

161 **Part 1. General Provisions**

162 **63M-14-101. Title.**

163 This chapter is known as the "Utah Marriage Commission."

164 Section 7. Section 63M-14-102 is enacted to read:

165 **63M-14-102. Definitions.**

166 As used in this chapter:

167 (1) "Commission" means the Utah Marriage Commission created by this chapter.

168 (2) "Commission leadership" means the commission's elected chair, elected vice chair,  
169 and coordinator.

170 (3) "Coordinator" means an employee from Utah State University described in Section  
171 63M-14-206.

172 Section 8. Section 63M-14-201 is enacted to read:

173 **Part 2. Commission**

174 **63M-14-201. Composition--Appointments--Terms--Removal.**

175 (1) There is created within the governor's office the "Utah Marriage Commission."

176 (2) The commission comprises at least 10 members but no more than 30 members,  
177 appointed as follows:

178 (a) the president of the Senate shall appoint two members of the Senate;

179 (b) the speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members of the  
180 House of Representatives;

181 (c) the governor, or commission leadership under Section [63M-14-202](#), shall appoint  
182 up to 28 members that:

183 (i) may come from the following groups:

184 (A) non-profit organizations or governmental agencies;

185 (B) social workers who are, or have been, licensed under Title 58, Chapter 60, Part 2,  
186 Social Worker Licensing Act;

187 (C) psychologists who are, or have been, licensed under Title 58, Chapter 61,  
188 Psychologist Licensing Act;

189 (D) physicians who are, or have been, board certified in psychiatry and are, or have  
190 been, licensed under Title 58, Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act or Title 58, Chapter 68,  
191 Utah Osteopathic Medical Practice Act;

192 (E) marriage and family therapists who are, or have been, licensed under Title 58,  
193 Chapter 60, Part 3, Marriage and Family Therapist Licensing Act;

194 (F) representatives of faith communities;

195 (G) public health professionals;

196 (H) representatives of domestic violence prevention organizations;

197 (I) academics from marriage and family studies departments, social or behavioral  
198 sciences departments, health sciences departments, colleges of law, or other related and  
199 supporting departments at institutions of higher education in this state;

200 (J) the general public;

201 (K) individuals with marketing or public relations experience; and

202 (L) legal professionals; or

203 (ii) have skills or expertise the commission requires to fulfill the commission's duties  
204 described in Section [63M-14-204](#).

205 (3) (a) An individual appointed under Subsection (2)(c) shall serve for a term of four  
206 years.

207 (b) If approved by the commission, an individual may be appointed for subsequent  
208 terms.

209 (c) When a vacancy occurs in the membership for any reason, the replacement shall be  
210 appointed by the applicable appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired term of the  
211 original appointment.

212 (d) Upon majority vote within commission leadership, commission leadership may  
213 remove a member of the commission if the member is unable to serve.

214 (e) Commission leadership may appoint as many non-voting members as necessary if  
215 the individuals appointed have skills or expertise related to the commission's duties, described  
216 in Section [63M-14-204](#).

217 Section 9. Section **63M-14-202** is enacted to read:

218 **63M-14-202. Appointee replacement.**

219 If a member appointed under Subsection [63M-14-201\(2\)\(c\)](#) resigns from the  
220 commission, is removed from the commission under Subsection [63M-14-201\(2\)\(d\)](#), or the  
221 member's term expires, the governor or commission leadership shall appoint a replacement  
222 member within 90 days after the day on which the governor receives notice of the member's  
223 resignation, removal, or term expiration.

224 Section 10. Section **63M-14-203** is enacted to read:

225 **63M-14-203. Commission meetings.**

226 (1) The commission shall annually elect a chair and vice chair from the commission's  
227 membership.

228 (2) The commission shall hold meetings as needed to fulfill the commission's duties.

229 (3) A meeting may be held on the call of the chair or a majority of the commission  
230 members.

231 (4) A majority of the voting members of the commission constitute a quorum and, if a  
232 quorum exists, the action of a majority of commission members present constitutes the action  
233 of the commission.

234 Section 11. Section **63M-14-204** is enacted to read:

235 **63M-14-204. Commission duties.**

236 The commission shall:

237 (1) promote coalitions and collaborative efforts to uphold and encourage a strong and  
238 healthy culture of strong and lasting marriages and stable families;

239 (2) contribute to greater awareness of the importance of marriage in an effort to reduce  
240 divorce and unwed parenthood in the state;

241 (3) promote public policies that support marriage;

242 (4) promote programs and activities that educate individuals and couples on how to



243 achieve strong, successful, and lasting marriages, including promoting and assisting in the  
244 offering of:

245 (a) events;

246 (b) classes and services, including those designed to promote strong, healthy, and  
247 lasting marriages and prevent domestic violence;

248 (c) marriage and relationship education conferences for the public and professionals;

249 and

250 (d) enrichment seminars;

251 (5) actively promote measures designed to maintain and strengthen marriage, family,  
252 and the relationships between spouses and parents and children;

253 (6) support volunteerism and private financial contributions and grants in partnership  
254 with the commission and in support of the commission's purposes and activities for the benefit  
255 of the state as provided in this section;

256 (7) regularly publicize information on premarital counseling and education services  
257 available in the state that comply with Section [30-1-34](#);

258 (8) approve an online course meeting the requirements of Section [30-1-34](#); and

259 (9) for purposes of Section [30-1-34](#), recognize one or more national organizations that  
260 certify family life educators.

261 Section 12. Section **63M-14-205** is enacted to read:

262 **63M-14-205. Member pay -- Reimbursement.**

263 (1) A commission member who is not a legislator may not receive compensation or  
264 benefits for the commission member's service, but may receive per diem and travel expenses as  
265 allowed in:

266 (a) Section [63A-3-106](#);

267 (b) Section [63A-3-107](#); and

268 (c) rules made by the Division of Finance in accordance with Sections [63A-3-106](#) and  
269 [63A-3-107](#).

270 (2) Compensation and expenses of a commission member who is a legislator are  
271 governed by Section [36-2-2](#) and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5, Legislative Compensation and  
272 Expenses.

273 Section 13. Section **63M-14-206** is enacted to read:

274 **63M-14-206. Oversight -- Staff support -- Funding.**

275 (1) Utah State University shall:

276 (a) working in consultation with the commission, hire a coordinator to manage the  
277 day-to-day operations of the commission;

278 (b) pay the salary of the coordinator and review the coordinator's performance;

279 (c) provide other staff support for the commission; and

280 (d) provide office space, furnishings, and supplies to the commission, the coordinator,  
281 and support staff.

282 (2) Funding for the commission shall be dedicated credits from the \$20 marriage  
283 license fee described in Section [17-16-21](#) and added funding sought by the commission from  
284 private contributions and grants that support the duties of the commission described in Section  
285 [63M-14-204](#).

286 (3) Before November 1, 2024, and before November 1 of each third year after 2024,  
287 the commission shall provide a written report to the Health and Human Services Interim  
288 Committee regarding the commission's:

289 (a) initiatives; and

290 (b) funding sources, including the effectiveness and necessity of the marriage license  
291 fee, described in Section [17-16-21](#), in providing commission funding.

292 **Section 14. Repealer.**

293 This bill repeals:

294 Section [62A-1-120](#), **Utah Marriage Commission.**