

YOUTH SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Keith Grover

House Sponsor: Tyler Clancy

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses requirements for certain organizations that hire individuals or use volunteers to care for or supervise children.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires youth service organizations to:
 - conduct a search of the Utah and national sex offender registries before employing or using as a volunteer an individual who would be responsible to care for or supervise children; and
 - provide training and have policies and procedures concerning the ~~§~~ → [prevention] identification ← ~~§~~

and reporting of ~~§~~ → [child] sexual ← ~~§~~ abuse ~~§~~ → [and neglect] ← ~~§~~ ;

- ▶ provides that for certain purposes, a youth service organization is considered negligent if it fails to conduct a sex offender registry search, or employs or uses as a volunteer an individual who was on the Utah or national sex offender registry;
- ▶ allows an insurer to request information from a youth service organization concerning compliance with the requirements of this bill; and
- ▶ states that the provisions of the bill do not abrogate any existing cause of action or create a new private right of action.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:



59 federal law.

60 (5) "Youth worker" means an individual:

61 (a) who is 18 years old or older;

62 (b) who is employed by or volunteers with a youth services organization; and

63 (c) whose responsibilities as an employee or volunteer with the youth services

64 organization give the individual regular and repeated care, supervision, guidance, or control of

65 a child or children.

66 Section 2. Section **80-8-201** is enacted to read:

67 **Part 2. Requirements and Penalties**

68 **80-8-201. Youth protection requirements.**

69 (1) A youth service organization may not employ a youth worker or allow an individual

70 to volunteer as a youth worker unless the youth service organization has completed a registered

71 sex offender check for the individual.

72 (2) A youth services organization shall require a potential youth worker to provide the

73 individual's full name and a current, government-issued identification to facilitate the registered

74 sex offender check required by Subsection (1).

75 (3) If an individual is registered on the state's Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry or the

76 National Sex Offender Public Website, a youth service organization may not employ the

77 individual as a youth worker or allow the individual to volunteer as a youth worker.

78 Section 3. Section **80-8-202** is enacted to read:

79 **80-8-202. Training -- Policies.**

80 (1) A youth service organization shall provide and a youth worker shall complete

81 reasonable training in ~~§→ [child abuse and neglect identification, and child abuse and neglect]~~ **sexual**

81a **abuse identification and** ~~←§~~

82 reporting.

83 (2) A youth service organization shall implement reasonable child abuse prevention

84 policies and procedures that include:

85 (a) policies to ensure that a registered sex offender check is conducted for each youth

86 worker before the youth worker is employed or allowed to volunteer; and

87 (b) policies to ensure the reporting of suspected ~~§→ sexual~~ **sexual** ~~←§~~ abuse ~~§→ [or neglect]~~ ~~←§~~

87a in compliance with

88 Section 80-2-602.

89 Section 4. Section **80-8-203** is enacted to read: