

Ryan D. Wilcox proposes the following substitute bill:

School Security Personnel Standards

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill provides amendments to school safety standards regarding requirements for various safety related personnel.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ allows county security chiefs to designate approved private security companies to administer required school safety personnel training;
- ▶ requires the State Board of Education to administer stipends for a school guardian in coordination with the state security chief;
- ▶ requires a local education agency (LEA) to provide a panic alert device for certain school safety personnel;
- ▶ expands the definition of an armed school security guard to include a special function officer;
- ▶ clarifies requirements of a school guardian concealed carrying a firearm while on duty;
- ▶ provides protocols for a school guardian or armed school security guard for an incident using deadly force;
- ▶ establishes visitor management protocols for an LEA;
- ▶ removes duplicative language; and
- ▶ makes conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

29 **53-13-105**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 16
 30 **53-22-103**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388
 31 **53-22-105**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 173, 208, 388, and 470
 32 **53-22-107**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 173, 208
 33 **53-25-701**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388
 34 **53G-6-806**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 21
 35 **53G-8-101**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 3
 36 **53G-8-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 348, 388
 37 **53G-8-301**, as repealed and reenacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 327
 38 **53G-8-701**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388
 39 **53G-8-701.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388
 40 **53G-8-701.6**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 388, 470
 41 **53G-8-704**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 208, 388
 42 **53G-8-802**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388
 43 **53G-8-805**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 388

44 ENACTS:

45 **53G-8-806**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

48 Section 1. Section **53-13-105** is amended to read:

49 **53-13-105 . Special function officer.**

- 50 (1)(a) "Special function officer" means a sworn and certified peace officer performing
 51 specialized investigations, service of legal process, security functions, or specialized
 52 ordinance, rule, or regulatory functions.
- 53 (b) "Special function officer" includes:
- 54 (i) state military police;
 - 55 (ii) constables;
 - 56 (iii) port-of-entry agents as defined in Section 72-1-102;
 - 57 (iv) authorized employees or agents of the Department of Transportation assigned to
 58 administer and enforce the provisions of Title 72, Chapter 9, Motor Carrier Safety
 59 Act;
 - 60 (v) school district security officers;
 - 61 (vi) Utah State Hospital security officers designated pursuant to Section 26B-5-303;
 - 62 (vii) Utah State Developmental Center security officers designated pursuant to

- 63 Section 26B-6-506;
- 64 (viii) fire arson investigators for any political subdivision of the state;
- 65 (ix) ordinance enforcement officers employed by municipalities or counties may be
- 66 special function officers;
- 67 (x) employees of the Department of Natural Resources who have been designated to
- 68 conduct supplemental enforcement functions as a collateral duty;
- 69 (xi) railroad special agents deputized by a county sheriff under Section 17-76-202 or
- 70 17-76-303 or appointed under Section 56-1-21.5;
- 71 (xii) auxiliary officers, as described by Section 53-13-112;
- 72 (xiii) special agents, process servers, and investigators employed by city attorneys;
- 73 (xiv) criminal tax investigators designated under Section 59-1-206; and
- 74 (xv) all other persons designated by statute as having special function officer
- 75 authority or limited peace officer authority.

- 76 (2)(a) A special function officer may exercise that spectrum of peace officer authority
- 77 that has been designated by statute to the employing agency, and only while on duty,
- 78 and not for the purpose of general law enforcement.
- 79 (b) If the special function officer is charged with security functions respecting facilities
- 80 or property, the powers may be exercised only in connection with acts occurring on
- 81 the property where the officer is employed or when required for the protection of the
- 82 employer's interest, property, or employees.
- 83 (c) A special function officer may carry firearms only while on duty, and only if
- 84 authorized and under conditions specified by the officer's employer or chief
- 85 administrator.
- 86 (d) While on duty, a special function officer employed by an elected sheriff or by a law
- 87 enforcement agency of the state or of a political subdivision may respond to
- 88 situations observed by the special function officer, whether on or off the officer's
- 89 assigned duty location, and is authorized to perform collateral duties for the purposes
- 90 of public safety, pending arrival of law enforcement officers from a local law
- 91 enforcement agency.
- 92 (3)(a) A special function officer may not exercise the authority of a special function
- 93 officer until:
- 94 (i) the officer has satisfactorily completed an approved basic training program for
- 95 special function officers as provided under Subsection (4); and
- 96 (ii) the chief law enforcement officer or administrator has certified this fact to the

97 director of the division.

98 (b) City and county constables and their deputies shall certify their completion of
99 training to the legislative governing body of the city or county they serve.

100 (4)(a) The agency that the special function officer serves may establish and maintain a
101 basic special function course and in-service training programs as approved by the
102 director of the division with the advice and consent of the council.

103 (b) The in-service training shall consist of no fewer than 40 hours per year and may be
104 conducted by the agency's own staff or by other agencies.

105 (5)(a) An individual shall be 19 years old or older before being certified or employed as
106 a special function officer.

107 (b) A special function officer who is under 21 years old may only work as a correctional
108 officer in accordance with Section 53-13-104.

109 Section 2. Section **53-22-103** is amended to read:

110 **53-22-103 . County sheriff responsibilities -- Coordination.**

111 (1) Each county sheriff shall identify an individual as a county security chief within the
112 sheriff's office to coordinate security responsibilities, protocols, and required trainings
113 between the state security chief, the county sheriff's office, and the corresponding police
114 chiefs whose jurisdiction includes a public school within the county.

115 (2) The county security chief shall:

116 (a) in collaboration with the school safety and security specialist described in Section
117 53G-8-701.6 and a member of the local law enforcement agency of relevant
118 jurisdiction as described in Section 53-25-701:

119 (i) administer or coordinate with a designee from the local law enforcement agency
120 of relevant jurisdiction to participate in, by any appropriate means the county
121 security chief determines, the school safety needs assessment described in Section
122 53G-8-701.5; and

123 (ii) review the results of the school safety needs assessment to recommend and
124 implement improvements to school facilities, policies, procedures, protocols,
125 rules, and regulations relating to school safety and security;

126 (b) collaborate and maintain effective communications regarding school safety with
127 each:

128 (i) school safety and security specialist in the county security chief's county, as
129 described in Section 53G-8-701.6;

130 (ii) school safety and security director in the county security chief's county, as

- 131 described in Section 53G-8-701.8; and
- 132 (iii) local law enforcement agency within the county;
- 133 (c) administer, or, if a local education agency chooses, designate qualified entities to
- 134 administer, with the corresponding police chiefs whose jurisdiction includes a public
- 135 school, the trainings described in Sections 53-22-105 and 53G-8-704, including:
- 136 (i) assessing if an individual is capable of the duties and responsibilities that the
- 137 trainings cover;
- 138 (ii) denying an individual the ability to be any of the school safety personnel
- 139 described in Section 53G-8-701.5 if the county security chief finds the individual
- 140 is not capable of the duties and responsibilities that the trainings cover; and
- 141 (iii) for any designated entity under this Subsection (2)(c):
- 142 (A) ensuring the designated entity meets minimum training standards established
- 143 by the state security chief;
- 144 (B) providing written approval of the designation;
- 145 (C) ensuring the designated entity coordinates with local law enforcement of the
- 146 relevant jurisdiction; and
- 147 (D) maintaining oversight and final authority over all training administration; and
- 148 [~~(e) administer with the corresponding police chiefs whose jurisdiction includes a public~~
- 149 ~~school, the trainings described in Sections 53-22-105 and 53G-8-704, including:]~~
- 150 [~~(i) assessing if an individual is capable of the duties and responsibilities that the~~
- 151 ~~trainings cover; and]~~
- 152 [~~(ii) denying an individual the ability to be a school safety personnel described in~~
- 153 ~~Section 53G-8-701.5 if the county security chief finds the individual is not~~
- 154 ~~capable of the duties and responsibilities that the trainings cover; and]~~
- 155 (d) in conjunction with the state security chief, administer the school guardian program
- 156 established in Section 53-22-105 at any school participating in the program in the
- 157 county security chief's county.

158 Section 3. Section **53-22-105** is amended to read:

159 **53-22-105 . School guardian program.**

- 160 (1) As used in this section:
- 161 (a) "Annual training" means an annual four-hour training that:
- 162 (i) a county security chief or a designee administers in coordination with personnel
- 163 from local law enforcement of relevant jurisdiction as described in [Section]
- 164 Subsection 53-25-701(2)(b);

- 165 (ii) the state security chief approves;
- 166 (iii) can be tailored to local needs;
- 167 (iv) allows an individual to practice and demonstrate firearms proficiency at a
- 168 firearms range using the firearm the individual carries for self defense and defense
- 169 of others;
- 170 (v) includes the following components:
- 171 (A) firearm safety, including safe storage of a firearm;
- 172 (B) de-escalation tactics;
- 173 (C) the role of mental health in incidents; and
- 174 (D) disability awareness and interactions; and
- 175 (vi) contains other training needs as determined by the state security chief.
- 176 (b) "Biannual training" means a twice-yearly training that:
- 177 (i) is at least four hours, unless otherwise approved by the state security chief;
- 178 (ii) a county security chief or a designee administers in coordination with personnel
- 179 from local law enforcement of relevant jurisdiction as described in [Section]
- 180 Subsection 53-25-701(2)(b);
- 181 (iii) the state security chief approves;
- 182 (iv) can be tailored to local needs;
- 183 (v) through which a school guardian at a school or simulated school environment:
- 184 (A) receives training on the specifics of the building or buildings of the school,
- 185 including the location of emergency supplies and security infrastructure; and
- 186 (B) participates in a live-action practice plan with school administrators in
- 187 responding to active threats at the school; and
- 188 (vi) shall be taken with at least three months in between the two trainings.
- 189 (c) "Deadly force" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-2-408.
- 190 [~~(e)~~] (d) "Firearm" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-11-101.
- 191 [~~(d)~~] (e) "Initial training" means an in-person training that:
- 192 (i) a county security chief or a designee administers in coordination with personnel
- 193 from local law enforcement of relevant jurisdiction as described in [Section]
- 194 Subsection 53-25-701(2)(b);
- 195 (ii) the state security chief approves;
- 196 (iii) can be tailored to local needs; and
- 197 (iv) provides:
- 198 (A) training on general familiarity with the types of firearms that can be concealed

- 199 for self-defense and defense of others;
- 200 (B) training on the safe loading, unloading, storage, and carrying of firearms in a
- 201 school setting;
- 202 (C) training at a firearms range with instruction regarding firearms fundamentals,
- 203 marksmanship, the demonstration and explanation of the difference between
- 204 sight picture, sight alignment, and trigger control, and a recognized pistol
- 205 course;
- 206 (D) current laws dealing with the lawful use of a firearm by a private citizen,
- 207 including laws on self-defense, defense of others, transportation of firearms,
- 208 and concealment of firearms;
- 209 (E) coordination with law enforcement officers in the event of an active threat;
- 210 (F) basic trauma first aid;
- 211 (G) the appropriate use of force, emphasizing the de-escalation of force and
- 212 alternatives to using force; and
- 213 (H) situational response evaluations, including:
- 214 (I) protecting and securing a crime or accident scene;
- 215 (II) notifying law enforcement;
- 216 (III) controlling information; and
- 217 (IV) other training that the county sheriff, designee, or department deems
- 218 appropriate.

219 [(e)] (f) "Program" means the school guardian program created in this section.

220 [(f)] (g)(i) "School employee" means an employee of a school or law enforcement

221 agency whose duties and responsibilities require the employee to be physically

222 present at a school's campus while school is in session.

223 (ii) "School employee" does not include a [~~principal,~~]teacher[;] or individual whose

224 primary responsibilities require the employee to be primarily present in a

225 classroom to teach, care for, or interact with students, unless:

226 (A) the [~~principal,~~]teacher[;] or individual is employed at a school with 350 or

227 fewer students;

228 (B) the [~~principal,~~]teacher[;] or individual is employed at a school with adjacent

229 campuses as determined by the state security chief; or

230 (C) as provided in Subsection 53G-8-701.5(3).

231 [(g)] (h) "School guardian" means a school employee who meets the requirements of

232 Subsection (3).

- 233 (2)(a)(i) There is created within the department the school guardian program.
234 (ii) The state security chief shall oversee the school guardian program.
235 (iii) The applicable county security chief shall administer the school guardian
236 program in each county.
- 237 (b) The state security chief shall ensure that the school guardian program includes:
238 (i) initial training;
239 (ii) biannual training; and
240 (iii) annual training.
- 241 (c) A county sheriff may partner or contract with:
242 (i) another county sheriff to support the respective county security chiefs in jointly
243 administering the school guardian program in the relevant counties; and
244 (ii) a local law enforcement agency of relevant jurisdiction to provide the:
245 (A) initial training;
246 (B) biannual training; and
247 (C) annual training.
- 248 (3)(a) A school employee that volunteers to participate is eligible to join the program as
249 a school guardian if:
250 (i) the school administrator approves the volunteer school employee to be designated
251 as a school guardian;
252 (ii) the school employee satisfactorily completes initial training within six months
253 before the day on which the school employee joins the program;
254 (iii) the school employee holds a valid concealed carry permit issued under Chapter
255 5a, Part 3, Concealed Firearm Permits;
256 (iv) the school employee certifies to the sheriff of the county where the school is
257 located that the school employee has undergone the training in accordance with
258 Subsection (3)(a)(ii) and intends to serve as a school guardian; and
259 (v) the school employee:
260 (A) completes an initial "fit to carry" assessment the Department of Health and
261 Human Services approves and a provider administers; and
262 (B) maintains compliance with mental health screening requirements consistent
263 with law enforcement standards.
- 264 (b) After joining the program a school guardian shall complete annual training and
265 biannual training to retain the designation of a school guardian in the program.
- 266 (4) The state security chief shall:

- 267 (a) for each school that participates in the program, track each school guardian at the
268 school by collecting the photograph and the name and contact information for each
269 guardian;
- 270 (b) make the information described in Subsection (4)(a) readily available to each law
271 enforcement agency in the state categorized by school; and
- 272 (c) ~~[provide each school guardian with a one-time stipend of \$500.]~~ in accordance with
273 Section 53G-8-701.5, and subject to legislative appropriations, consult with the State
274 Board of Education to provide each school guardian with a one-time stipend.
- 275 (5) A school guardian:
- 276 ~~[(a) may store the school guardian's firearm on the grounds of a school only if:]~~
277 ~~[(i) the firearm is stored in a biometric gun safe;]~~
278 ~~[(ii) the biometric gun safe is located in the school guardian's office; and]~~
279 ~~[(iii) the school guardian is physically present on the grounds of the school while the~~
280 ~~firearm is stored in the safe;]~~
- 281 ~~[(b) shall carry the school guardian's firearm in a concealed manner; and]~~
- 282 ~~[(c) may not, unless during an active threat, display or open carry a firearm while on~~
283 ~~school grounds.]~~
- 284 (a) shall carry the school guardian's firearm on the school guardian's person in a
285 concealed manner at all times while on duty during school hours;
- 286 (b) may temporarily store the school guardian's firearm in a biometric gun safe located
287 in the school guardian's office only:
288 (i) for brief personal needs such as restroom use;
289 (ii) during required activities where carrying is physically impractical and approved
290 by the school administrator; or
291 (iii) at the end of the school guardian's shift;
- 292 (c) shall ensure that any temporary storage under Subsection (5)(b):
293 (i) does not exceed 15 minutes per occasion, except as approved by the school
294 administrator for documented necessity;
295 (ii) occurs only when the school guardian is physically present on school grounds; and
296 (iii) is immediately retrievable by the school guardian;
- 297 (d) may not, unless during an active threat, display or open carry a firearm while on
298 school grounds; and
- 299 (e) shall ensure the firearm is immediately accessible to respond to active threats during
300 the school guardian's assigned duty hours.

- 301 (6) Except as provided in Subsection [~~(5)(e)~~] (5)(d), this section does not prohibit an
302 individual who has a valid concealed carry permit but is not participating in the program
303 from carrying a firearm on the grounds of a public school or charter school under
304 Subsection 76-11-205(4).
- 305 (7) A school guardian:
- 306 (a) does not have authority to act in a law enforcement capacity; and
- 307 (b) may, at the school where the school guardian is employed:
- 308 (i) take actions necessary to prevent or abate an active threat; and
- 309 (ii) temporarily detain an individual when the school guardian has reasonable cause
310 to believe the individual has committed or is about to commit a forcible felony, as
311 that term is defined in Section 76-2-402.
- 312 (8) A school may designate a single volunteer or multiple volunteers to participate in the
313 school guardian program to satisfy the school safety personnel requirements of Section
314 53G-8-701.5.
- 315 (9) The department may adopt, according to Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
316 Rulemaking Act, rules to administer this section.
- 317 (10) A school guardian who has active status in the guardian program is not liable for any
318 civil damages or penalties if the school guardian:
- 319 (a) when carrying or storing a firearm:
- 320 (i) is acting in good faith; and
- 321 (ii) is not grossly negligent; or
- 322 (b) threatens, draws, or otherwise uses a firearm reasonably believing the action to be
323 necessary in compliance with Section 76-2-402.
- 324 (11) A school guardian shall file a report described in Subsection (12) if, during the
325 performance of the school guardian's duties, the school guardian points a firearm at an
326 individual.
- 327 (12)(a) A report described in Subsection (11) shall include:
- 328 (i) a description of the incident;
- 329 (ii) the identification of the individuals involved in the incident; and
- 330 (iii) any other information required by the state security chief.
- 331 (b) A school guardian shall submit a report required under Subsection (11) to the school
332 administrator, school safety and security director, and the state security chief within
333 48 hours after the incident.
- 334 (c) The school administrator, school safety and security director, and the state security

- 335 chief shall consult and review the report submitted under Subsection (12)(b).
- 336 (13) The requirements of Subsections (11) and (12) do not apply to a training exercise.
- 337 (14) If a school guardian uses deadly force, the guardian:
- 338 (a) shall be placed on administrative leave pending investigation;
- 339 (b) may not be required to provide a written report described in Subsections (11) and (12);
- 340 (c)(i) may not be required to participate in a voluntary interview; and
- 341 (ii) if the guardian chooses to participate in an interview, the interview may not be
- 342 sooner than two sleep cycles after the incident; and
- 343 (d) shall be subject to investigation by the law enforcement agency with primary
- 344 jurisdiction over the school's location.
- 345 ~~[(14)]~~ (15) A school guardian may have the designation of school guardian revoked at any
- 346 time by the school principal, county sheriff, or state security chief.
- 347 ~~[(15)]~~ (16)(a) Any information or record created detailing a school guardian's
- 348 participation in the program is:
- 349 (i) a private, controlled, or protected record under Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government
- 350 Records Access and Management Act; and
- 351 (ii) available only to:
- 352 (A) the state security chief;
- 353 (B) administrators at the school guardian's school;
- 354 (C) if applicable, other school safety personnel described in Section 53G-8-701.5;
- 355 (D) school employees participating in the Educator-Protector Program under
- 356 Section 53-22-107 at the same school;
- 357 ~~[(D)]~~ (E) a local law enforcement agency that would respond to the school in case
- 358 of an emergency; and
- 359 ~~[(E)]~~ (F) the individual designated by the county sheriff in accordance with Section
- 360 53-22-103 of the county of the school where the school guardian in the
- 361 program is located.
- 362 (b) The information or record described in Subsection ~~[(15)(a)]~~ (16)(a) includes
- 363 information related to the school guardian's identity and activity within the program
- 364 as described in this section and any personal identifying information of a school
- 365 guardian participating in the program collected or obtained during initial training,
- 366 annual training, and biannual training.
- 367 (c) An individual who intentionally or knowingly provides the information described in
- 368 Subsection ~~[(15)(a)]~~ (16)(a) to an individual or entity not listed in Subsection [

369 (15)(a)(ii)] (16)(a)(ii) is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

370 Section 4. Section 53-22-107 is amended to read:

371 **53-22-107 . Educator-Protector Program.**

372 (1) As used in this section:

373 (a) "Annual classroom response training" means a training for a [teacher] school
374 employee:

375 (i) that is held at least once a year and is administered, at no cost to a [teacher] school
376 employee, by the individual identified by the county sheriff as described in
377 Section 53-22-103; and

378 (ii) where the [teacher] school employee is trained:

379 (A) on how to defend a classroom against active threats emphasizing the [teacher's]
380 school employee's role in stationary defense; and

381 (B) on the safe loading, unloading, storage, and carrying of firearms in a school
382 setting.

383 (b) "Bureau" means the Bureau of Criminal Identification created in Section 53-10-201.

384 (c) "Local education agency" means the same as that term is defined in Section
385 53E-1-102.

386 (d) "Program" means the Educator-Protector Program created under this section.

387 (e) [~~"Teacher" means an individual employed by a local education agency who has an~~
388 ~~assignment to teach in a classroom.~~] "School employee" means the same as that term
389 is defined in Section 53-22-105.

390 (2) There is created the Educator-Protector Program to incentivize a [teacher] school
391 employee to responsibly secure or carry a firearm on the grounds of the school where
392 the [teacher] school employee is employed.

393 (3)(a) To participate in the program, a [teacher] school employee shall:

394 (i) have completed an annual classroom response training within six months before
395 the day on which the [teacher] school employee joins the program;

396 (ii) have a valid concealed carry permit issued under Title 53, Chapter 5a, Part 3,
397 Concealed Firearm Permits; and

398 (iii) certify to the department that:

399 (A) the [teacher] school employee satisfies the requirements described in
400 Subsections (3)(a)(i) and (3)(a)(ii); and

401 (B) if applicable, intends to securely store or carry a firearm on the grounds of a
402 school where the [teacher] school employee is employed.

- 403 (b) After joining the program, to retain the [teacher's] school employee's active status in
404 the program, a [teacher] school employee shall:
- 405 (i) participate in annual classroom response training; and
406 (ii) comply with any rules established by the department in accordance with
407 Subsection (10).
- 408 (4)(a) The state security chief shall:
- 409 (i) track each [teacher] school employee that participates in the program by collecting
410 a photograph, name, and contact information for each [teacher] school employee;
411 (ii) make the information described in Subsection [~~(4)(a)~~] (4)(a)(i) readily available to
412 each law enforcement agency in the state; and
413 (iii) provide reasonable reimbursement, using funds appropriated by the Legislature,
414 to a county sheriff for providing a [teacher] school employee with annual
415 classroom response training.
- 416 (b) The state security chief shall categorize the information described in Subsection
417 (4)(a)(i) by school.
- 418 (5) A [teacher] school employee participating in the program:
- 419 (a) may store the [teacher's] school employee's firearm on the grounds of a school only if:
420 (i) the firearm is stored in a biometric gun safe;
421 (ii) the biometric gun safe is located in the [teacher's] school employee's classroom or
422 office; and
423 (iii) the [teacher] school employee is physically present on the grounds of the school
424 while the firearm is stored in the biometric gun safe; and
425 (b) shall carry the [teacher's] school employee's firearm in a concealed manner unless
426 during an active threat.
- 427 (6) This section does not prohibit an individual who has a valid concealed carry permit but
428 is not participating in the program from carrying firearms on the grounds of a school as
429 described in Subsection 76-11-205(4).
- 430 (7)(a) A [teacher] school employee who has active status in the program is not liable for
431 any civil damages or penalties if the [teacher] school employee:
- 432 (i) when carrying or storing a firearm:
433 (A) is acting in good faith; and
434 (B) is not grossly negligent; or
435 (ii) threatens, draws, or otherwise uses a firearm reasonably believing the action to be
436 necessary in compliance with Section 76-2-402.

- 437 (b) A local education agency is not liable for civil damages or penalties resulting from a [
438 teacher] school employee who is participating in the program carrying, using, or
439 storing a firearm at a school.
- 440 (8) A local education agency may not prevent a [teacher] school employee from
441 participating in the program under this section.
- 442 (9)(a) Any information or record created detailing a [teacher's] school employee's
443 participation in the program is:
- 444 (i) a private, controlled, or protected record under Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government
445 Records Access and Management Act; and
- 446 (ii) available only to:
- 447 (A) the state security chief;
- 448 (B) school guardians under Section 53-22-105 at the same school;
- 449 [~~B~~] (C) a local law enforcement agency that would respond to the school in case
450 of an emergency; and
- 451 [~~C~~] (D) the individual identified by the county sheriff as described in Section
452 53-22-103.
- 453 (b) The information or record described in Subsection (9)(a) includes the information
454 described in Subsection (4)(a)(i) and any personal identifying information of a [
455 teacher] school employee participating in the program collected or obtained during
456 annual classroom response training.
- 457 (c) An individual who intentionally or knowingly provides the information described in
458 Subsection (9)(a) to an individual or entity not listed in Subsection (9)(a)(ii) is guilty
459 of a class A misdemeanor.
- 460 (10) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
461 department may adopt rules to administer this section.
- 462 Section 5. Section **53-25-701** is amended to read:
- 463 **53-25-701 . Requirements for school safety.**
- 464 (1) As used in this section:
- 465 (a) "Local law enforcement agency" means the law enforcement agency with primary
466 jurisdiction over a school's physical location.
- 467 (b) "School safety needs assessment" means the assessment required under Section
468 53G-8-701.5.
- 469 (c) "Security camera system" means the system described in Section 53G-8-805.
- 470 (2) Each local law enforcement agency shall:

- 471 (a) as coordinated with the county security chief described in Section 53-22-103,
 472 allocate adequate personnel to participate in the school safety needs assessments with
 473 a school's school safety and security specialist as required by Section 53G-8-701.5
 474 for each school within the local law enforcement's jurisdiction;
- 475 (b) if [a] any school located within the county of a local law enforcement agency's
 476 jurisdiction elects to satisfy the requirements described in Subsection
 477 53G-8-701.5(2)(a)(ii) by employing school guardians, assign adequate personnel
 478 time as the county security chief determines to assist the county security chief in
 479 administering the trainings required under Section 53-22-105;
- 480 (c) ensure the school safety and security specialist for each school has all relevant
 481 information collected by the county security chief or the local law enforcement
 482 agency to submit the completed assessments to the School Safety Center created in
 483 Section 53G-8-802 by October 15 of each year;
- 484 (d) coordinate with each school within the local law enforcement's jurisdiction to obtain
 485 and maintain access to school security camera systems as described in Section
 486 53G-8-805; and
- 487 (e) coordinate with the relevant county security chiefs as specified in Sections 53-22-103
 488 and 53-22-105.

489 (3) The county security chief shall consider the number of schools in a law enforcement
 490 agency's direct jurisdiction that have elected to satisfy the requirements described in
 491 Subsection 53G-8-701.5(2)(a)(ii) by employing school guardians when determining the
 492 adequate personnel time described in Subsection (2)(b) a law enforcement agency shall
 493 assign to assist the county security chief in administering the trainings required under
 494 Section 53-22-105.

495 Section 6. Section **53G-6-806** is amended to read:

496 **53G-6-806 . Parent portal.**

- 497 (1) As used in this section:
- 498 (a) "Parent portal" means the posting the state board is required to provide under this
 499 section.
- 500 (b) "School" means a public elementary or secondary school, including a charter school.
- 501 (2)(a) The state board shall post information that allows a parent of a student enrolled in
 502 a school to:
- 503 (i) access an LEA's policies required by Sections 53G-9-203 and 53G-9-605;
- 504 (ii) be informed of resources and steps to follow when a student has been the subject,

- 505 perpetrator, or bystander of bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, retaliation, or
506 abusive conduct such as:
- 507 (A) resources for the student, including short-term mental health services;
 - 508 (B) options for the student to make changes to the student's educational
509 environment;
 - 510 (C) options for alternative school enrollment;
 - 511 (D) options for differentiated start or stop times;
 - 512 (E) options for differentiated exit and entrance locations; and
 - 513 (F) the designated employee for an LEA who addresses incidents of bullying,
514 cyber-bullying, hazing, retaliation, and abusive conduct;
- 515 (iii) be informed of the steps and resources for filing a grievance with a school or
516 LEA regarding bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, or retaliation;
- 517 (iv) be informed of the steps and resources for seeking accommodations under the
518 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq;
- 519 (v) be informed of the steps and resources for seeking accommodations under state or
520 federal law regarding religious accommodations;
- 521 (vi) be informed of the steps and resources for filing a grievance for an alleged
522 violation of state or federal law, including:
- 523 (A) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000d-2000d-4;
 - 524 (B) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681-1688;
 - 525 (C) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 794; and
 - 526 (D) Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Sec.
527 12131-12165;
- 528 (vii) receive information about constitutional rights and freedoms afforded to families
529 in public education;
- 530 (viii) be informed of how to access an internal audit hotline if established by the state
531 board; and
- 532 (ix) be informed of services for military families.
- 533 (b) In addition to the information required under Subsection (2)(a), the state board:
- 534 (i) shall include in the parent portal:
 - 535 (A) the comparison tool created under Section 53G-6-805;
 - 536 (B) beginning July 1, 2028, school level safety data, including data points
537 described in Section 53E-3-516; and
 - 538 (C) a link to the public safety portal described in Section 63A-16-1002; and

539 (ii) may include in the parent portal other information that the state board determines
540 is helpful to parents.

541 (3)(a) The state board shall post the parent portal at a location that is easily located by a
542 parent.

543 (b) The state board shall update the parent portal at least annually.

544 (c) In accordance with state and federal law, the state board may collaborate with a
545 third-party to provide safety data visualization in comparison to other states' data.

546 (4) An LEA shall annually notify each of the following of how to access the parent portal:

547 (a) a parent of a student; and

548 (b) a teacher, principal, or other professional staff within the LEA.

549 Section 7. Section **53G-8-101** is amended to read:

550 **53G-8-101 . General provisions.**

551 [~~This chapter is known as "Discipline and Safety."~~] Reserved.

552 Section 8. Section **53G-8-102** is amended to read:

553 **53G-8-102 . Definitions for chapter.**

554 As used in this chapter:

555 (1) "Climate" means the perceptions and experiences of students, staff, parents, and the
556 community regarding the school's environment and the resources that support the
557 experiences.

558 (2) "Culture" means the beliefs, values, and practices that shape how a school functions and
559 influences student learning and well-being through policies, procedures, and safety
560 protocols.

561 (3) "Forcible felony" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-2-402.

562 (4) "K-12 School Campus" means an LEA governed property or building where K-12
563 students gather daily for instructional purposes and has an assigned administrator.

564 (5) "Physical Space" means the way in which a building is designed and structured to
565 promote safety including the minimum safety and security standards as described in
566 Section 53-22-102.

567 (6) "School safety" means the physical space, culture, and climate of a school.

568 (7) "School safety personnel" means the personnel described in Section 53G-8-701.5.

569 Section 9. Section **53G-8-301** is amended to read:

570 **53G-8-301 . Emergency safety interventions -- Appropriate uses -- Penalties.**

571 (1) As used in this section:

572 (a) "Corporal punishment" means the intentional infliction of physical pain upon the

- 573 body of a student as a disciplinary measure.
- 574 (b) "Emergency safety intervention" means the use of seclusion or physical restraint
575 when a student presents an immediate danger to self or others.
- 576 (c) "Physical escort" means a temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm,
577 shoulder, or back for the purpose of guiding a student to another location.
- 578 (d) "Physical restraint" means a personal restriction that immobilizes or significantly
579 reduces the ability of a student to move the student's arms, legs, body, or head freely.
- 580 (e) "School" means a public or private elementary school, secondary school, or
581 preschool.
- 582 (f) "Seclusion" means seclusionary time out that is the involuntary confinement of a
583 student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from
584 leaving, including:
- 585 (i) placing a student in a locked room; or
586 (ii) placing a student in a room where the door is blocked by furniture or held closed
587 by staff.
- 588 (g) "Student" means an individual who is:
- 589 (i) under [~~the age of 19~~] 19 years old and receiving educational services; or
590 (ii) under [~~the age of 23~~] 23 years old and receiving educational services as an
591 individual with a disability.
- 592 (2)(a) A school employee shall first use the least restrictive intervention available to the
593 school employee, including a physical escort, to address circumstances described in
594 Subsection (4).
- 595 (b) Nothing in this section prohibits a school employee from subsequently using less
596 restrictive interventions to address circumstances described in Subsection (4).
- 597 (3)(a) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
598 the state board shall make rules to:
- 599 (i) establish guidelines and best practices that consider individual student needs
600 related to emergency safety interventions described in Subsection (10)(b);
601 (ii) establish intervention reporting requirements;
602 (iii) create school staff training standards that may be included in an existing training;
603 (iv) develop parental notification procedures;
604 (v) implement data collection and review processes;
605 (vi) establish investigation protocols;
606 (vii) establish data collection and reporting requirements for an LEA regarding:

- 607 (A) incidents of seclusion;
- 608 (B) alternative interventions used;
- 609 (C) student demographic information, including sex, [~~gender,~~]age, grade in
610 school, and applicable disability status; and
- 611 (D) incident outcomes.
- 612 (b) The state board shall include the information described in Subsection (3)(a) in the
613 State Superintendent's Annual Report described in Section 53E-1-203.
- 614 (4) A school employee may use reasonable and necessary physical restraint only:
- 615 (a) in self defense;
- 616 (b) to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object in the possession or
617 under the control of a student;
- 618 (c) to protect a student or another individual from physical injury;
- 619 (d) to remove from a situation a student who is violent; or
- 620 (e) to protect property from being damaged, when physical safety is at risk.
- 621 (5)(a) A school employee may not inflict or cause the infliction of corporal punishment
622 upon a student.
- 623 (b) The reporting and investigation requirements of Title 80, Chapter 2, Part 6, Child
624 Abuse and Neglect Reports, apply to complaints on corporal punishment.
- 625 (c) Evidence of corporal punishment that would qualify as reasonable discipline under
626 Section 76-2-401 is insufficient to establish liability in a civil or criminal action.
- 627 (d) Subject to the Rules of Evidence, evidence of corporal punishment that exceeds
628 reasonable discipline under Section 76-2-401 may be used by a court to establish
629 civil or criminal liability.
- 630 (6) School authorities shall take prompt and appropriate action, including in-service
631 training and other administrative action, upon confirming a violation of this section.
- 632 (7) The Division of Child and Family Services shall maintain all violation reports made in
633 accordance with this section under the confidentiality requirements of Section 80-2-1005.
- 634 (8) A school or individual who makes a good faith report or cooperates in an investigation
635 shall receive immunity from civil or criminal liability.
- 636 (9) A court with jurisdiction under Title 78A, Judiciary and Judicial Administration, may
637 take appropriate action against any employing entity if the court finds that the
638 employing entity has not taken reasonable steps to enforce the provisions of this part.
- 639 (10) A school:
- 640 (a) may not:

- 641 (i) enforce any rule, policy, or directive that permits acts prohibited by this section;
642 (ii) sanction an employee who refuses to commit a prohibited act; or
643 (iii) except as provided in Subsection (10)(b), use seclusion:
644 (A) as an intervention or disciplinary practice;
645 (B) for coercion, retaliation, or humiliation; or
646 (C) due to inadequate staffing or for the staff member's convenience;
- 647 (b) for a student in grade 1 or higher, may use seclusion as an emergency safety
648 intervention only when:
649 (i) the LEA has developed and implemented written policies and procedures that:
650 (A) describe the circumstances under which a staff member may use seclusion;
651 (B) describe which staff members are authorized to use seclusion;
652 (C) describe procedures for monitoring a student that is in seclusion;
653 (D) describe time limitations on the use of seclusion;
654 (E) require immediate and continuous review of the decision to use seclusion;
655 (F) require documenting the use of seclusion;
656 (G) describe record keeping requirements for records related to the use of
657 seclusion; and
658 (H) require debriefing of all witnesses, involved staff members, the student who
659 was secluded, and the parent of the student who was secluded;
- 660 (ii) a student poses an immediate and significant threat to the student or others;
661 (iii) less restrictive interventions have failed;
662 (iv) a staff member who is familiar to the student is actively supervising the student
663 for the duration of the seclusion; and
664 (v) the use is time-limited to a maximum time of 30 minutes and monitored;
- 665 (c) if seclusion was used, shall document the reason for its use, duration, and any
666 alternative strategies attempted; and
667 (d) shall notify parents immediately, and not to exceed 15 minutes after the use, of any
668 emergency safety intervention used on the parent's child, including seclusion or
669 physical restraint.
- 670 (11) An LEA shall collect and report data to the state board annually regarding:
671 (a) an incident; and
672 (b) for each incident, the:
673 (i) duration of an intervention used to respond to the incident;
674 (ii) stated purpose for any intervention used;

- 675 (iii) alternative interventions attempted;
- 676 (iv) student demographic information, including sex, [~~gender,~~]age, grade in school,
- 677 and applicable disability status; and
- 678 (v) relevant training offered to staff and if the staff involved received the relevant
- 679 training without revealing the identity of the staff member.

680 (12) This section does not apply to:

- 681 (a) a law enforcement officer as defined in Section 53-13-103;
- 682 (b) a parochial or private school that:
 - 683 (i) does not receive state funds;
 - 684 (ii) adopts a policy of exemption from this section; and
 - 685 (iii) notifies the parents of students in the school of the exemption; or
- 686 (c) behavior support intervention which is in compliance with:
 - 687 (i) Section 76-2-401; and
 - 688 (ii) state and local rules adopted under Section 53E-7-204.

689 (13) Any violations of this section, including violations of any standards for seclusion or
690 physical restraint established by the state board pursuant to this section, shall:

- 691 (a) constitute an act of unlawful detention and is subject to the penalty described in
- 692 Section 76-5-304; and
- 693 (b) result in a referral to:
 - 694 (i) local law enforcement; and
 - 695 (ii) the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission established in Section
 - 696 53E-6-501.

697 Section 10. Section **53G-8-701** is amended to read:

698 **53G-8-701 . Definitions.**

699 As used in this part:

- 700 (1) "Armed school security guard" means the same as that term is defined in Section
- 701 53G-8-704.
- 702 (2) "County security chief" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-22-101.
- 703 (3) "Law enforcement agency" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-1-102.
- 704 (4) "Public school" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-9-205.1.
- 705 (5) "School guardian" means the same as that term is defined in Section [~~53-22-106]~~
- 706 53-22-105.
- 707 (6) "School is in session" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53E-3-516.
- 708 (7) "School resource officer" means a law enforcement officer, as defined in Section

709 53-13-103, who contracts with or whose law enforcement agency contracts with an LEA
710 to provide law enforcement services for the LEA.

711 (8) "School safety and security director" means an individual whom an LEA designates in
712 accordance with Section 53G-8-701.8.

713 (9) "School safety and security specialist" means a school employee designated under
714 Section 53G-8-701.6 who is responsible for supporting school safety initiatives.

715 (10) "School Safety Center" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-8-801.

716 (11) "State security chief" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-22-101.

717 Section 11. Section **53G-8-701.5** is amended to read:

718 **53G-8-701.5 . School safety needs assessment -- School safety personnel --**

719 **Alternative requirements.**

720 (1)(a) In accordance with Subsections (1)(c) through (e), no later than October 15 of an
721 applicable year, an LEA shall:

722 (i) ensure a school safety needs assessment the state security chief selects in
723 collaboration with the school safety center is conducted in accordance with
724 Subsection (1)(b) for each school or K-12 campus within the LEA to determine
725 the needs and deficiencies regarding:

726 (A) appropriate school safety personnel, including necessary supports, training,
727 and policy creation for the personnel;

728 (B) physical building security and safety, including required upgrades to facilities
729 and safety technology;

730 (C) a school's current threat and emergency response protocols, including any
731 emergency response agreements with local law enforcement;

732 (D) if applicable, a school's current visitor management protocols, including
733 alignment with recommended best practices as described in Section 53G-8-806;

734 ~~(E)~~ (E) cardiac emergency preparedness, including an inventory of whether
735 automated external defibrillators are present and accessible, maintenance
736 status, and current staff training offerings; and

737 ~~(E)~~ (F) compliance with universal access key box requirements under Section
738 53G-8-805; and

739 (ii) report the results of the school safety needs assessment for each school within the
740 LEA to the state security chief and the School Safety Center.

741 (b)(i) The school safety specialist described in Section 53G-8-701.6, in collaboration
742 with the county security chief, and with the local law enforcement of relevant

- 743 jurisdiction over the school as described in Section 53-25-701, shall conduct the
744 school safety needs assessment for each school.
- 745 (ii) A school safety and security director may fulfill the role of a school safety and
746 security specialist in conducting the school safety needs assessment.
- 747 (c) The school safety needs assessment required under Subsection (1)(a)(i) shall be
748 conducted at least once every three years for each school or K-12 campus.
- 749 (d) An LEA may implement a rotating or staggered schedule for conducting school
750 safety needs assessments among the buildings within the LEA, provided that:
- 751 (i) each school within a K-12 campus is assessed at least once every three years; and
752 (ii) the LEA documents the rotating or staggered assessment schedule and shares this
753 schedule with the state security chief, the School Safety Center, the county
754 security chief, and the local law enforcement of relevant jurisdiction as described
755 in Section 53-25-701.
- 756 (e) The LEA shall update the assessment schedule as necessary to ensure compliance
757 with the three-year assessment requirement under Subsection (1)(c).
- 758 (f) The state board shall use the results of the school safety needs assessment for each
759 school within an LEA to award a grant to an LEA in accordance with Section
760 53F-5-220.
- 761 (g) Any information or record detailing a school's needs assessment results is:
- 762 (i) a private, controlled, or protected record under Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government
763 Records Access and Management Act; and
764 (ii) available only to:
- 765 (A) the state security chief;
766 (B) the School Safety Center;
767 (C) members of an LEA governing board;
768 (D) administrators of the LEA and school the needs assessment concerns;
769 (E) only to the extent necessary to award a grant under Section 53F-5-220, the
770 state board;
771 (F) the applicable school safety personnel described in Subsection (2);
772 (G) a local law enforcement agency that would respond to the school in case of an
773 emergency; and
774 (H) the county security chief.
- 775 (h) An individual who intentionally or knowingly provides the information described in
776 Subsection (1)(g) to an individual or entity not listed in Subsection (1)(g)(ii) is guilty

- 777 of a class B misdemeanor.
- 778 (2)(a) An LEA shall ensure each school within the LEA has the following school safety
779 personnel:
- 780 (i) a school safety and security specialist described in Section 53G-8-701.6; and
781 (ii) based on the results of the needs assessment described in Subsection (1), at least
782 one of the following:
- 783 (A) a school resource officer;
784 (B) a school guardian; or
785 (C) an armed school security guard.
- 786 (b) In addition to the school safety personnel described in Subsection (2)(a), an LEA
787 shall designate a school safety and security director described in Section 53G-8-701.8.
- 788 (c) The same individual may serve in more than one of the roles listed in Subsections
789 (2)(a) and (b) if the school notifies the School Safety Center and the state security
790 chief of the decision to have the same individual serve in multiple roles as described
791 in this Subsection (2).
- 792 (d) An LEA that designates a school guardian under Subsection (2)(a)(ii)(B) shall ensure
793 that:
- 794 (i) the school guardian carries the firearm on the guardian's person during assigned
795 duty hours as required in Section 53-22-105; and
- 796 (ii) the LEA does not adopt policies that require or encourage school guardians to
797 store firearms in a manner that prevents immediate access during school hours.
- 798 [(d)] (e) An LEA may implement the requirements of Subsection (2)(a)(ii) before the
799 LEA has completed the school safety needs assessment described in Subsection (1).
- 800 [(e)] (f) The state security chief in consultation with the School Safety Center shall
801 establish a timeline for an LEA to comply with the school safety personnel
802 requirements of this Subsection (2).
- 803 (3)(a) An LEA, school administrator, or private school may apply to the state security
804 chief for an approved alternative to the requirements described in:
- 805 (i) Section 53-22-105;
806 (ii) this section;
807 (iii) Section 53G-8-701.6;
808 (iv) Section 53G-8-701.8; and
809 (v) Section 53G-8-704.
- 810 (b) In approving or denying an application described in Subsection (3)(a), the state

811 security chief may consider factors that impact a school or LEA's ability to adhere to
812 the requirements of this section, including the school or LEA's:

- 813 (i) population size;
- 814 (ii) staffing needs or capacity;
- 815 (iii) geographic location;
- 816 (iv) available funding; or
- 817 (v) general demonstration of need for an alternative to the requirements of this
818 section.

819 (4) A private school shall identify an individual at the private school to serve as the safety
820 liaison with the local law enforcement of relevant jurisdiction and the state security chief.

821 (5)(a) Notwithstanding Subsections (5)(b) and (c), an LEA may:

- 822 (i) pay guardian stipends using local funds when state funding is exhausted; or
- 823 (ii) supplement state funding with local funds.

824 (b) In accordance with Subsection (5)(c), the state board shall be responsible for
825 administering guardian stipend funding in coordination with the state security chief.

826 (c)(i) The state security chief shall:

- 827 (A) verify that a school guardian has met all requirements to be eligible for a
828 stipend; and
- 829 (B) certify each eligible school guardian to the state board through completion of
830 required training and active status in the program.

831 (ii) Upon certification by the state security chief, and subject to legislative
832 appropriations, the state board shall provide each eligible school guardian with a
833 one-time stipend.

834 (iii) The state board shall determine the amount of the stipend for each fiscal year
835 based on:

- 836 (A) the amount appropriated by the Legislature for school guardian stipends;
- 837 (B) the projected number of school guardians statewide based on historical data
838 and current program enrollment trends;
- 839 (C) a reserve allocation of up to 10% of the total appropriation to account for
840 school guardians who join the program after the beginning of the school year;
841 and
- 842 (D) any other factors the state board determines necessary to ensure equal
843 distribution of the funds.

844 (iv) All school guardians certified as eligible during the same fiscal year shall receive

- 845 the same stipend amount, regardless of:
- 846 (A) when during the fiscal year the school guardian completed training and
- 847 became eligible; or
- 848 (B) the size, location, or type of school where the guardian serves.
- 849 (v) The state board shall:
- 850 (A) announce the stipend amount for each fiscal year no later than August 1, or
- 851 within 30 days of legislative appropriations if appropriated after July 1;
- 852 (B) distribute stipends within 60 days of certification by the state security chief;
- 853 (C) maintain a reserve for school guardians who become eligible later in the fiscal
- 854 year;
- 855 (D) if funds remain unallocated at the end of the fiscal year due to fewer school
- 856 guardians than projected, carry forward the remaining funds to supplement the
- 857 next fiscal year's stipend amount; and
- 858 (E) if eligible school guardians exceed projections and available funding, pro-rate
- 859 the stipend amount equally among all eligible school guardians for that fiscal
- 860 year and report the shortfall to the Legislature.
- 861 (vi) A school guardian is eligible to receive only one stipend regardless of:
- 862 (A) serving at multiple schools; or
- 863 (B) leaving and rejoining the program within the same fiscal year.
- 864 (vii) If a school guardian leaves the program for any reason after receiving a stipend,
- 865 the school guardian is not required to return the stipend unless the state security
- 866 chief determines the school guardian:
- 867 (A) obtained the stipend through fraud or misrepresentation; or
- 868 (B) failed to actually meet the eligibility requirements under Section 53-22-105.

869 Section 12. Section **53G-8-701.6** is amended to read:

870 **53G-8-701.6 . School safety and security specialist.**

- 871 (1) As used in this section[;] :
- 872 (a) [~~"principal"~~] "Principal" means the chief administrator at a public school, including:
- 873 [~~(a)~~] (i) a school principal;
- 874 [~~(b)~~] (ii) a charter school director; or
- 875 [~~(c)~~] (iii) the superintendent of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.
- 876 (b) "Teacher" means an individual employed by a local education agency who has an
- 877 assignment to teach in a classroom.
- 878 (2)(a) Subject to Subsection (2)(b) and except as provided in Subsection 53G-8-701.5(3),

- 879 every campus within an LEA shall designate a school safety and security specialist
880 from the employees of the relevant campus.
- 881 (b) The school safety and security specialist:
- 882 (i) may not be a principal or a teacher; and
883 (ii) may be the school safety and security director at one campus within the LEA.
- 884 (3) The school safety and security specialist shall:
- 885 (a) report directly to the principal;
- 886 (b) oversee school safety and security practices to ensure a safe and secure school
887 environment for students and staff;
- 888 (c) ensure adherence with all policies, procedures, protocols, rules, and regulations
889 relating to school safety and security through collaborating and maintaining effective
890 communications with the following as applicable:
- 891 (i) the principal;
- 892 (ii) school staff;
- 893 (iii) the school resource officer;
- 894 (iv) the armed school security guard;
- 895 (v) the school guardian;
- 896 (vi) local law enforcement;
- 897 (vii) the county security chief;
- 898 (viii) the school safety and security director;
- 899 (ix) the LEA; and
- 900 (x) school-based behavioral and mental health professionals;
- 901 (d) in collaboration with the county security chief and with the local law enforcement of
902 relevant jurisdiction over the school as described in Section 53-25-701:
- 903 (i) conduct the school safety needs assessment described in Section 53G-8-701.5;
- 904 (ii) in accordance with Sections 53-25-701 and 53G-8-701.5, submit the completed
905 assessments to the School Safety Center created in Section 53G-8-802 by October
906 15 of each year; and
- 907 (iii) review the results of the school safety needs assessment to recommend and
908 implement improvements to school facilities, policies, procedures, protocols,
909 rules, and regulations relating to school safety and security;
- 910 (e) participate on the multidisciplinary team that the school establishes;
- 911 (f) conduct a behavioral threat assessment when the school safety and security specialist
912 deems necessary using an evidence-based tool the state security chief recommends in

- 913 consultation with the ~~[school safety center]~~ School Safety Center and the Office of
914 Substance Use and Mental Health;
- 915 (g) regularly monitor and report to the principal, local law enforcement, and, if
916 applicable, the LEA superintendent or designee, security risks for the school resulting
917 from:
- 918 (i) issues with school facilities; or
919 (ii) the implementation of practices, policies, procedures, and protocols relating to
920 school safety and security;
- 921 (h) coordinate with local first responder agencies to implement and monitor safety and
922 security drills in accordance with policy and applicable procedures and protocols;
- 923 (i) ensure that school staff, and, when appropriate, students, receive training on and
924 remain current on the school's safety and security procedures and protocols;
- 925 (j) following an event where security of the school has been significantly compromised,
926 organize a debriefing with the individuals listed in Subsection (3)(c) following the
927 recommendations from the state security chief, in collaboration with the School
928 Safety Center, regarding strengthening school safety and security practices, policies,
929 procedures, and protocols;
- 930 (k) abide by any LEA, school, or law enforcement agency policy outlining the chain of
931 command;
- 932 (l) during an emergency, coordinate with the following individuals as applicable, the:
933 (i) school resource officer;
934 (ii) school guardians;
935 (iii) armed school security guards;
936 (iv) school administrators; and
937 (v) responding law enforcement officers;
- 938 (m) follow any LEA, school, or law enforcement agency student privacy policies,
939 including state and federal privacy laws;
- 940 (n) participate in an annual training the state security chief selects in consultation with
941 the School Safety Center; and
- 942 (o) remain current on:
943 (i) a comprehensive school guideline the state security chief selects;
944 (ii) the duties of a school safety and security specialist described in this Subsection (3);
945 and
946 (iii) the school's emergency response plan.

947 (4) During an active emergency at the school, the school safety and security specialist is
 948 subordinate to any responding law enforcement officers.

949 Section 13. Section **53G-8-704** is amended to read:

950 **53G-8-704 . Contracts between an LEA and a contract security company for**
 951 **armed school security guards.**

952 (1) As used in this section:

953 (a) "Armed private security officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section
 954 58-63-102.

955 (b) "Armed school security guard" means:

956 (i) an armed private security officer who:

957 ~~[(†)]~~ (A) is licensed as an armed private security officer under Title 58, Chapter 63,
 958 Security Personnel Licensing Act; and

959 ~~[(†)]~~ (B) has met the requirements described in Subsection (4)(a)~~[-]~~ ; or

960 (ii) a special function officer.

961 (c) "Contract security company" means:

962 (i) for an armed private security officer, the same as that term is defined in Section
 963 58-63-102~~[-]~~ ; and

964 (ii) for a special function officer, the special function officer's employing law
 965 enforcement agency.

966 (d) "Deadly force" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-2-408.

967 (e) "Special function officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section
 968 53-13-105.

969 ~~[(†)]~~ (f) "State security chief" means the same as that term is defined in Section
 970 53-22-102.

971 (2)(a) An LEA may use an armed school security guard to satisfy the school safety
 972 personnel requirements of Section 53G-8-701.5.

973 (b) An LEA that uses an armed school security guard under Subsection (2)(a) shall have
 974 a contract with a contract security company or if a special function officer is used as
 975 an armed school security guard, a contract with the law enforcement agency
 976 employing the special function officer, in accordance with Section 53G-8-703, to
 977 provide armed school security guards at each school within the LEA.

978 (3) The contract described in Subsection (2)(b) shall include a detailed description of:

979 (a) the rights of a student under state and federal law with regard to:

980 (i) searches;

- 981 (ii) questioning;
- 982 (iii) arrests; and
- 983 (iv) information privacy;
- 984 (b) job assignment and duties of an armed school security guard, including:
- 985 (i) the school to which an armed school security guard will be assigned;
- 986 (ii) the hours an armed school security guard is present at the school;
- 987 (iii) the point of contact at the school that an armed school security guard will contact
- 988 in case of an emergency;
- 989 (iv) specific responsibilities for providing and receiving information;
- 990 (v) types of records to be kept, and by whom; and
- 991 (vi) training requirements; and
- 992 (c) other expectations of the contract security company in relation to school security at
- 993 the LEA.
- 994 (4)(a) In addition to the requirements for licensure under Title 58, Chapter 63, Security
- 995 Personnel Licensing Act, an armed private security officer may only serve as an
- 996 armed school security guard under a contract described in Subsection (2)(b) if the
- 997 armed private security officer:
- 998 (i) has a valid concealed carry permit issued under Title 53, Chapter 5a, Part 3,
- 999 Concealed Firearm Permits;
- 1000 (ii) has undergone training from a county security chief or local law enforcement
- 1001 agency regarding:
- 1002 (A) the safe loading, unloading, storage, and carrying of firearms in a school
- 1003 setting;
- 1004 (B) the role of armed security guards in a school setting; and
- 1005 (C) coordination with law enforcement and school officials during an active threat;
- 1006 (iii) completes an initial "fit to carry" assessment the Department of Health and
- 1007 Human Services approves and a provider administers; and
- 1008 (iv) maintains compliance with mental health screening requirements consistent with
- 1009 law enforcement standards.
- 1010 (b) An armed school security guard that meets the requirements of Subsection (4)(a)
- 1011 shall, in order to remain eligible to be assigned as an armed school security guard at
- 1012 any school under a contract described in Subsection (2)(b), participate in and satisfy
- 1013 the training requirements of the initial, annual, and biannual trainings as defined in
- 1014 Section 53-22-105.

- 1015 (5) An armed school security guard may conceal or openly carry a firearm at the school at
1016 which the armed school security guard is employed under the contract described in
1017 Subsection (2)(b).
- 1018 (6) An LEA that enters a contract under this section shall inform the state security chief and
1019 the relevant county security chief of the contract and provide the contact information of
1020 the contract security company employing the armed security guard for use during an
1021 emergency.
- 1022 (7) The state security chief shall:
- 1023 (a) for each LEA that contracts with a contract security company under this section,
1024 track each contract security company providing armed school security guards by
1025 name and the contact information for use in case of an emergency; and
- 1026 (b) make the information described in Subsection (7)(a) readily available to each law
1027 enforcement agency in the state by school.
- 1028 (8) An armed school security guard shall file a report described in Subsection (9) if, during
1029 the performance of the armed school security guard's duties, the armed school security
1030 guard:
- 1031 (a) points a firearm at an individual; or
- 1032 (b) aims a conductive energy device at an individual and displays the electrical current.
- 1033 (9)(a) A report described in Subsection (8) shall include:
- 1034 (i) a description of the incident;
- 1035 (ii) the identification of the individuals involved in the incident; and
- 1036 (iii) any other information required by the state security chief.
- 1037 (b) An armed school security guard shall submit a report required under Subsection (8)
1038 to the school administrator, school safety and security director, and the state security
1039 chief within 48 hours after the incident.
- 1040 (c) The school administrator, school safety and security director, and the state security
1041 chief shall consult and review the report submitted under Subsection (9)(b).
- 1042 (10) If an armed school security guard uses deadly force, the armed school security guard:
- 1043 (a) shall be placed on administrative leave pending investigation;
- 1044 (b) may not be required to provide a written report described in Subsections (8) and (9);
- 1045 (c)(i) may not be required to participate in a voluntary interview; and
- 1046 (ii) if the armed school security guard chooses to participate in an interview, the
1047 interview may not be sooner than two sleep cycles after the incident; and
- 1048 (d)(i) shall be subject to investigation by the law enforcement agency with primary

1049 jurisdiction over the school's location; and
 1050 (ii) if the involved party is a special function officer employed by a law enforcement
 1051 agency, shall follow the same protocol established for officer-involved shootings
 1052 under Section 76-2-408.

1053 Section 14. Section **53G-8-802** is amended to read:

1054 **Part 8. State Safety and Support Program -- Security Infrastructure**

1055 **53G-8-802 . State Safety and Support Program -- State board duties -- LEA**

1056 **duties.**

1057 (1) There is created the School Safety Center.

1058 (2) The School Safety Center shall:

1059 (a) develop in conjunction with the Office of Substance Use and Mental Health and the
 1060 state security chief model student safety and support policies for an LEA, including:

1061 (i) requiring an evidence-based behavior threat assessment that includes
 1062 recommended interventions with an individual whose behavior poses a threat to
 1063 school safety;

1064 (ii) procedures for referrals to law enforcement; and

1065 (iii) procedures for referrals to a community services entity, a family support
 1066 organization, or a health care provider for evaluation or treatment;

1067 (b) provide training in consultation with the state security chief:

1068 (i) in school safety;

1069 (ii) in evidence-based approaches to improve school climate and address and correct
 1070 bullying behavior;

1071 (iii) in evidence-based approaches in identifying an individual who may pose a threat
 1072 to the school community;

1073 (iv) in evidence-based approaches in identifying an individual who may be showing
 1074 signs or symptoms of mental illness;

1075 (v) on permitted disclosures of student data to law enforcement and other support
 1076 services under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec.

1077 1232g;

1078 (vi) on permitted collection of student data under 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232h and Sections
 1079 53E-9-203 and 53E-9-305; and

1080 (vii) for administrators on rights and prohibited acts under:

1081 (A) Chapter 9, Part 6, Bullying and Hazing;

1082 (B) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000d et seq.;

- 1083 (C) Title IX of Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681 et seq.;
- 1084 (D) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 701 et seq.; and
- 1085 (E) the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.;
- 1086 (c) conduct and disseminate evidence-based research on school safety concerns;
- 1087 (d) disseminate information on effective school safety initiatives;
- 1088 (e) encourage partnerships between public and private sectors to promote school safety;
- 1089 (f) provide technical assistance to an LEA in the development and implementation of
- 1090 school safety initiatives;
- 1091 (g) in conjunction with the state security chief, make available to an LEA the model
- 1092 critical incident response training program a school and law enforcement agency
- 1093 shall use during a threat;
- 1094 (h) provide space for the public safety liaison described in Section 53-1-106 and the
- 1095 school-based mental health specialist described in Section 26B-5-102;
- 1096 (i) collaborate with the state security chief to determine appropriate application of school
- 1097 safety requirements in Utah Code to an online school;
- 1098 (j) create a model school climate survey that may be used by an LEA to assess
- 1099 stakeholder perception of a school environment;
- 1100 (k) in accordance with Section 53G-5-202, establish a charter school liaison including
- 1101 defined responsibilities for charter school communication and coordination with the
- 1102 School Safety Center;[~~and~~]
- 1103 (l) assist a foundation described in Section 53-22-108 in distributing school safety
- 1104 products if a foundation seeks assistance;
- 1105 (m) establishes defined roles for a multidisciplinary team and school safety personnel
- 1106 described in Chapter 8, Part 7, School Safety Personnel;
- 1107 (n) assist LEAs in implementing and maintaining universal access key box requirements
- 1108 under Section 53G-8-805;
- 1109 (o) in consultation with the state security chief, select a system to track relevant data,
- 1110 including the tracking required in Sections 53-22-105, 53G-8-701.5, 53G-8-701.8,
- 1111 and 53G-8-704; and
- 1112 (p) collect aggregate data and school climate survey results from an LEA that
- 1113 administers the model school climate survey described in Subsection (2)(j).
- 1114 (3) Nothing in this section requires:
- 1115 (a) an individual to respond to a school climate survey; or
- 1116 (b) an LEA to use the model school climate survey or any specified questions in the

- 1117 model school climate survey described in Subsection (2)(j).
- 1118 (4) The state board shall require an LEA to:
- 1119 (a)(i) if an LEA administers a school climate survey, review school climate data for
- 1120 each school within the LEA; and
- 1121 (ii) based on the review described in Subsection (4)(a)(i):
- 1122 (A) revise practices, policies, and training to eliminate harassment and
- 1123 discrimination in each school within the LEA;
- 1124 (B) adopt a plan for harassment- and discrimination-free learning; and
- 1125 (C) host outreach events or assemblies to inform students and parents of the plan
- 1126 adopted under Subsection (4)(a)(ii)(B);
- 1127 (b) no later than September 1 of each school year, send a notice to each student, parent,
- 1128 and LEA staff member stating the LEA's commitment to maintaining a school
- 1129 climate that is free of harassment and discrimination; and
- 1130 (c) report to the state board annually on the LEA's implementation of the plan under
- 1131 Subsection (4)(a)(ii)(B) and progress.

1132 Section 15. Section **53G-8-805** is amended to read:

1133 **53G-8-805 . Panic alert device -- Security cameras -- Key box.**

- 1134 (1) As used in this section:
- 1135 (a) "Universal access key box" means a UL Standard 1037 compliant secure container
- 1136 designed to store and protect emergency access keys and devices.
- 1137 (b) "Emergency responder" means law enforcement, fire service, or emergency medical
- 1138 personnel authorized by local authorities to respond to school emergencies.
- 1139 (2) In accordance with the results of the school safety needs assessment described in
- 1140 Section 53G-8-701.5, an LEA shall provide the [~~lead teacher in each classroom~~]
- 1141 following with a wearable panic alert device that shall communicate directly with public
- 1142 safety answering points[-] :
- 1143 (a) the lead teacher in each classroom; and
- 1144 (b) beginning July 1, 2027, the appropriate school safety personnel described in
- 1145 Subsection 53G-8-701.5(2).
- 1146 (3) An LEA shall ensure, before the school year begins, all school building personnel
- 1147 receive training on the protocol and appropriate use of the panic alert device described in
- 1148 Subsection (2).
- 1149 (4) An LEA shall:
- 1150 (a) ensure all security cameras within a school building are accessible by:

- 1151 (i) a local law enforcement agency; and
1152 (ii) public safety answering points;
- 1153 (b) coordinate with a local law enforcement agency to establish appropriate access
1154 protocols; and
1155 (c) physically mark all hallways and doorways consistent with the incident response
1156 method or system the state security chief creates.
- 1157 (5) A school building shall include universal access key boxes that:
- 1158 (a) are installed at main entry points;
1159 (b) contain master keys and access devices providing complete access to all areas of the
1160 school;
1161 (c) are accessible only to authorized emergency responders;
1162 (d) are electronically monitored for tampering; and
1163 (e) are weather-resistant and vandal-resistant.
- 1164 (6) An LEA shall:
- 1165 (a) maintain universal access key boxes by:
- 1166 (i) conducting quarterly inspections;
1167 (ii) updating contents within 24 hours of any lock or access control changes;
1168 (iii) maintaining current key and access device inventories;
1169 (iv) documenting all inspections and updates; and
1170 (v) immediately replacing any damaged or malfunctioning boxes;
- 1171 (b) coordinate with local emergency responders to:
- 1172 (i) determine optimal box placement;
1173 (ii) establish access protocols;
1174 (iii) maintain current emergency contact information; and
1175 (iv) conduct annual reviews of box usage and effectiveness; and
- 1176 (c) include universal access key box locations and protocols in:
- 1177 (i) school emergency response plans;
1178 (ii) building schematic diagrams provided to emergency responders; and
1179 (iii) school safety and security training materials.
- 1180 (7) The state board shall:
- 1181 (a) establish standards for:
- 1182 (i) box installation and placement;
1183 (ii) access control and monitoring;
1184 (iii) maintenance schedules; and

- 1185 (iv) compliance verification;
- 1186 (b) in direct coordination with the state security chief, ensure new construction or major
- 1187 remodeling of a school building shall include the installation of automated external
- 1188 defibrillators in appropriate locations as the state board determines; and
- 1189 (c) provide technical assistance to LEAs implementing this section.

1190 (8) Nothing in this section:

- 1191 (a) affects requirements for fire department key boxes under applicable building or fire
- 1192 codes; or
- 1193 (b) restricts additional security measures implemented by LEAs that exceed these
- 1194 requirements.

1195 (9) This section is not subject to the restrictions in Section 41-6a-2003.

1196 Section 16. Section **53G-8-806** is enacted to read:

1197 **53G-8-806 . School visitor management protocols -- Requirements -- LEA**

1198 **responsibilities.**

1199 (1) As used in this section:

1200 (a) "Controlled access point" means a designated entry point to a school building that:

1201 (i) school personnel or electronic surveillance monitors during school hours; and

1202 (ii) requires visitors to follow check-in procedures before accessing the school

1203 building interior.

1204 (b) "School hours" means the period during which students are present in the school

1205 building for instructional purposes.

1206 (c) "Visitor" means any individual who is not a current student or employee of the

1207 school, including:

1208 (i) parents;

1209 (ii) contractors and service providers;

1210 (iii) volunteers; and

1211 (iv) guests.

1212 (d) "Visitor management system" means a process or technology an LEA uses to track,

1213 monitor, and manage visitors entering school facilities.

1214 (2) An LEA that establishes visitor management protocols shall ensure the protocols

1215 include:

1216 (a) designated controlled access points that require all visitors to:

1217 (i) enter the school building through a main entrance or other designated entry point

1218 during school hours;

- 1219 (ii) report immediately to a central office or reception area before accessing other
1220 areas of the school building; and
- 1221 (iii) present valid government-issued identification or other acceptable identification
1222 the LEA determines in LEA policy;
- 1223 (b) a visitor sign-in and sign-out process that records at minimum:
- 1224 (i) the visitor's name;
1225 (ii) the date and time of entry and exit;
1226 (iii) the purpose of the visit; and
1227 (iv) the specific location or individual the visitor intends to visit;
- 1228 (c) procedures for:
- 1229 (i) issuing visible identification, including a visitor badge or pass, that visitors must
1230 display prominently while on school grounds; and
- 1231 (ii) distinguishing between different types of visitors, such as parents, volunteers,
1232 contractors, and other guests;
- 1233 (d) protocols for monitoring and supervising visitors while on school grounds, including:
- 1234 (i) requiring school personnel to accompany visitors when visitors access areas where
1235 students are present, except as LEA policy otherwise provides for parents or
1236 authorized volunteers;
- 1237 (ii) prohibiting visitor access to restricted areas; and
1238 (iii) procedures school personnel shall follow to challenge or question any individual
1239 without visible identification;
- 1240 (e) procedures for responding to visitors who:
- 1241 (i) refuse to comply with visitor management protocols;
1242 (ii) pose a potential threat to school safety; or
1243 (iii) the LEA denies entry to the school;
- 1244 (f) clear signage at all school building entrances that:
- 1245 (i) directs visitors to the designated controlled access point;
1246 (ii) notifies visitors of the requirement to check in and obtain authorization before
1247 entering; and
- 1248 (iii) states that the LEA prohibits unauthorized entry and that unauthorized entry may
1249 result in criminal prosecution under Section 76-6-206; and
- 1250 (g) annual training for school personnel on:
- 1251 (i) implementing and enforcing visitor management protocols;
1252 (ii) identifying and responding to unauthorized individuals on school grounds; and

1253 (iii) communication procedures with the school safety and security specialist
1254 described in Section 53G-8-701.6 or school safety and security director described
1255 in Section 53G-8-701.8.

1256 (3)(a) An LEA may implement an electronic visitor management system that includes
1257 capabilities such as:

1258 (i) automated identification verification;

1259 (ii) integration with sex offender registry databases;

1260 (iii) digital badge printing;

1261 (iv) automated visitor tracking and reporting; and

1262 (v) emergency notification capabilities.

1263 (b) If an LEA implements an electronic visitor management system, the LEA shall
1264 ensure that:

1265 (i) the LEA maintains visitor data in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 2,
1266 Government Records Access and Management Act;

1267 (ii) the LEA protects personally identifiable information and uses such information
1268 solely for school safety purposes; and

1269 (iii) the LEA notifies visitors of data collection practices in accordance with
1270 applicable privacy laws.

1271 (4)(a) An LEA may establish reasonable exceptions to the visitor management
1272 requirements described in Subsection (2) for:

1273 (i) emergency situations requiring immediate access to the school building;

1274 (ii) law enforcement officers, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel
1275 responding to an emergency;

1276 (iii) volunteers or employees of an educational foundation who have successfully
1277 completed a background check and ongoing monitoring as required in Section
1278 53G-11-402;

1279 (iv) brief visits to exterior areas of the school campus that do not require entry into
1280 school buildings;

1281 (v) school-sponsored events held during regular school hours with larger than normal
1282 numbers of visitors on the school campus;

1283 (vi) school-sponsored public events held outside of regular school hours.

1284 (b) An LEA shall provide reasonable accommodations in visitor management
1285 procedures for individuals with disabilities in compliance with the Americans with
1286 Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.

- 1287 (5) If applicable, the school safety needs assessment an LEA conducts under Subsection
1288 53G-8-701.5(1) shall include an evaluation of:
- 1289 (a) the adequacy of current visitor management protocols;
 - 1290 (b) physical infrastructure supporting controlled access, including entry vestibules,
1291 secure reception areas, and electronic access control systems; and
 - 1292 (c) recommendations for improvements to visitor management protocols and
1293 infrastructure.
- 1294 (6)(a) An LEA that implements visitor management protocols shall include information
1295 about the protocols in the school safety needs assessment conducted under Section
1296 53G-8-701.5.
- 1297 (b) The state security chief may:
 - 1298 (i) evaluate visitor management protocols as part of the school safety needs
1299 assessment described in Section 53G-8-701.5;
 - 1300 (ii) collect and maintain data on visitor management protocol implementation and
1301 effectiveness; and
 - 1302 (iii) develop recommended best practices for LEAs that choose to implement visitor
1303 management protocols.
- 1304 Section 17. **Effective Date.**
- 1305 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.