

EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATION AMENDMENTS

2019 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: V. Lowry Snow

Senate Sponsor: Ann Millner

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates the Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council and the Governor's Early Childhood Commission.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ creates the Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council (council) in the Department of Health;
- ▶ creates the Governor's Early Childhood Commission (commission) in the governor's office; and
- ▶ describes the duties of the council and the membership and duties of the commission.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

26-66-101, Utah Code Annotated 1953

26-66-102, Utah Code Annotated 1953

26-66-201, Utah Code Annotated 1953

26-66-202, Utah Code Annotated 1953

29 [26-66-203](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953

30 [63M-13-101](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953

31 [63M-13-102](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953

32 [63M-13-201](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953

33 [63M-13-202](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953

34 [63M-13-203](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

37 Section 1. Section **26-66-101** is enacted to read:

38 **CHAPTER 66. EARLY CHILDHOOD UTAH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

39 **Part 1. General Provisions**

40 **26-66-101. Title.**

41 This chapter is known as the "Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council."

42 Section 2. Section **26-66-102** is enacted to read:

43 **26-66-102. Definitions.**

44 As used in this chapter:

45 (1) "Commission" means the Governor's Early Childhood Commission created in

46 Section [63M-13-201](#).

47 (2) "Council" means the Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council created in Section

48 [26-66-201](#).

49 Section 3. Section **26-66-201** is enacted to read:

50 **Part 2. Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council**

51 **26-66-201. Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council.**

52 (1) There is created the Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council.

53 (2) The department shall make rules establishing the membership, duties, and
54 procedures of the council in accordance with the requirements of:

55 (a) this chapter;

(b) the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 9837b;
and

(c) Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

Section 4. Section **26-66-202** is enacted to read:

26-66-202. Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council -- Duties.

(1) The council shall serve as an entity dedicated to improving and coordinating the quality of programs and services for children in accordance with the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 9837b.

(2) The council shall advise the commission and, on or before August 1, annually provide to the commission:

(a) a statewide assessment concerning the availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten services for children from low-income households; and

(b) a statewide strategic report addressing the activities mandated by the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 9837b, including:

(i) identifying opportunities for and barriers to collaboration and coordination among federally-funded and state-funded child health and development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among state agencies responsible for administering such programs;

(ii) evaluating the overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local child care programs and early childhood health, development, family support, and education programs;

(iii) recommending statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators and service providers in the state, including an analysis of the capacity and effectiveness of programs at two- and four-year public and private institutions of higher education that support the development of early childhood educators; and

(iv) recommending improvements to the state's early learning standards and high-quality comprehensive early learning standards.

(3) On or before August 1, 2020, and at least every five years thereafter, the council shall provide to the commission a statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education, health, and development programs and services for children in early childhood.

Section 5. Section **26-66-203** is enacted to read:

26-66-203. Compensation.

A member of the council may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service.

Section 6. Section **63M-13-101** is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 13. GOVERNOR'S EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION

Part 1. General Provisions

63M-13-101. Title.

This chapter is known as the "Governor's Early Childhood Commission."

Section 7. Section **63M-13-102** is enacted to read:

63M-13-102. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Commission" means the Governor's Early Childhood Commission created in Section [63M-13-201](#).

(2) "Early childhood" refers to a child in the state who is six years of age or younger.

Section 8. Section **63M-13-201** is enacted to read:

Part 2. Governor's Early Childhood Commission

63M-13-201. Creation of the Governor's Early Childhood Commission.

(1) There is created within the governor's office the Governor's Early Childhood Commission consisting of the following five members:

(a) the lieutenant governor, who shall serve as chair of the commission;

(b) the executive director of the Department of Workforce Services or the deputy director if designated by the executive director;

(c) the executive director of the Department of Health or the deputy director if designated by the executive director;

(d) the executive director of the Department of Human Services or the deputy director if designated by the executive director; and

(e) the state superintendent of public instruction or a deputy superintendent if designated by the superintendent.

(2) The chair of the commission, with the approval of the commission, shall appoint a vice chair of the commission.

(3) The commission chair:

(a) is responsible for the call and conduct of meetings;

(b) shall call and hold meetings of the commission at least quarterly;

(c) shall call additional meetings upon request by a majority of the commission's members; and

(d) may delegate duties to the vice chair.

(4) A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum of the commission at any meeting and the action of the majority of members present is the action of the commission.

(5) A member of the commission may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service, but may receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with:

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

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

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

(6) The Department of Workforce Services shall provide administrative staff support to the commission.

Section 9. Section **63M-13-202** is enacted to read:

63M-13-202. Duties of the commission.

137 (1) The responsibilities of the commission include:

138 (a) supporting Utah parents and families, who have family members that are in early
139 childhood, by providing comprehensive and accurate information regarding the availability of
140 voluntary services that are available to children in early childhood from state agencies and
141 other private and public entities;

142 (b) facilitating improved coordination between state agencies and community partners
143 that provide services to children in early childhood;

144 (c) sharing and analyzing information regarding early childhood issues in the state;

145 (d) developing and coordinating a comprehensive delivery system of services for
146 children in early childhood that addresses the following four areas:

147 (i) family support and safety;

148 (ii) health and development;

149 (iii) early learning; and

150 (iv) economic development; and

151 (e) identifying opportunities for and barriers to the alignment of standards, rules,
152 policies, and procedures across programs and agencies that support children in early childhood.

153 (2) To fulfill the responsibilities described in Subsection (1), the commission shall:

154 (a) directly engage with parents, families, community members, and public and private
155 service providers to identify and address:

156 (i) the quality, effectiveness, and availability of existing services for children in early
157 childhood and the coordination of those services;

158 (ii) gaps and barriers to entry in the provision of services for children in early
159 childhood; and

160 (iii) community-based solutions in improving the quality, effectiveness, and
161 availability of services for children in early childhood;

162 (b) seek regular and ongoing feedback from a wide range of entities and individuals
163 that use or provide services for children in early childhood, including entities and individuals

that use, represent, or provide services for any of the following:

(i) children in early childhood who live in urban, suburban, or rural areas of the state;

(ii) children in early childhood with varying socioeconomic backgrounds;

(iii) children in early childhood with varying ethnic or racial heritage;

(iv) children in early childhood from various geographic areas of the state; and

(v) children in early childhood with special needs;

(c) study, evaluate, and report on the status and effectiveness of policies, procedures, and programs that provide services to children in early childhood;

(d) study and evaluate the effectiveness of policies, procedures, and programs implemented by other states and nongovernmental entities that address the needs of children in early childhood;

(e) identify policies, procedures, and programs that are impeding efforts to help children in early childhood in the state and recommend and implement changes to those policies, procedures, and programs;

(f) identify policies, procedures, and programs related to children in early childhood in the state that are inefficient or duplicative and recommend and implement changes to those policies, procedures, and programs;

(g) recommend policy, procedure, and program changes to address the needs of children in early childhood;

(h) develop methods for using interagency information to inform comprehensive policy and budget decisions relating to early childhood services;

(i) develop, recommend, and coordinate a comprehensive delivery system of services for children in early childhood; and

(j) develop strategies and monitor efforts concerning:

(i) increasing school readiness;

(ii) improving access to child care and early education programs; and

(iii) improving family and community engagement in early childhood education and

development.

(3) In fulfilling the duties of the commission, the commission shall collaborate with the Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council created in Section [22-66-201](#).

(4) In fulfilling the commission's duties, the commission may:

(a) request and receive, from any state or local governmental agency or institution, information relating to early childhood, including reports, audits, projections, and statistics; and

(b) appoint special advisory groups to advise and assist the commission.

(5) Members of a special advisory group described in Subsection (4)(b):

(a) shall be appointed by the commission;

(b) may include:

(i) members of the commission; and

(ii) individuals from the private or public sector; and

(c) may not receive reimbursement or pay for work done in relation to the special advisory group.

(6) A special advisory group created in accordance with Subsection (4)(b) shall report to the commission on the progress of the special advisory group.

Section 10. Section **63M-13-203** is enacted to read:

63M-13-203. Annual report.

(1) On or before October 1 of each year, the commission shall provide a report to the governor and the Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee.

(2) The annual report shall:

(a) describe how the commission fulfilled its statutory duties during the year;

(b) describe the commission's progress in developing and coordinating a comprehensive delivery system of services for children in early childhood; and

(c) include recommendations on how the state should act to address issues related to providing services for children in early childhood.

