

Student Athlete Revisions

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Sahara Hayes

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill requires degree-granting institutions of higher education to adopt policies concerning abusive coaching practices.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- requires a degree-granting institution to:
 - adopt a policy addressing abusive coaching practices; and
 - report to the Education Interim Committee; and
- requires a degree-granting institution's board of trustees to review and approve a degree-granting institution's policy on abusive coaching practices.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53E-1-201, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 3, 460 and 525

ENACTS:

53B-16-701, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **53B-16-701** is enacted to read:

53B-16-701 . Abusive coaching policies.

(1) As used in this section:

(a)(i) "Abusive coaching practice" means conduct by a coach or member of the coaching staff that creates an unsafe or harmful environment for a student-athlete.

(ii) "Abusive coaching practice" includes conduct by a coach or coaching staff ~~that~~

with a student athlete ~~that~~

results in:

(A) harmful or offensive physical contact ~~that~~ [with] ~~that~~ [a] ~~that~~ [

student-athlete] ~~that~~ ;

~~that~~ (B) sexual misconduct or harassment;

(C) inappropriate sexual language; or

(D) conduct that a reasonable person would find to be psychologically abusive.

~~[(B) psychological abuse of a student-athlete; or]~~

~~[(C) failure to act in a manner consistent with the health, safety, and well-being of~~

~~]~~ ~~that~~

~~that~~ [a student-athlete.] ~~that~~

(b) "Athletic department" means the division of a degree-granting institution responsible for overseeing intercollegiate athletic programs.

(2) A degree-granting institution shall:

(a) address abusive coaching practices by requiring a degree-granting institution's athletic department to adopt a policy by November 7, 2025, that:

(i) allows an individual to submit a complaint to the athletic department alleging a violation of the policies described in this Subsection (2)(a);

(ii) prohibits coaches and coaching staff from encouraging or advising a student-athlete to tolerate an abusive coaching practice;

(iii) prohibits coaches and coaching staff from discouraging a report for an abusive coaching practice;

(iv) establishes reporting requirements for a volunteer, coach, or member of the coaching staff who learns of an abusive coaching practice;

(v) mandates training for athletic department staff on recognizing and preventing an abusive coaching practice;

(vi) establishes a procedure for the athletic department to follow when responding to a complaint of an abusive coaching practice; and

(vii) institutes disciplinary action for individuals found in violation of the policies described in this Subsection (2)(a); and

(b) submit the policy described in Subsection (2)(a) to the board and Education Interim Committee before the Education Interim Committee's November 2025 meeting; and

(c) establish procedures to:

- (i) notify an individual of the receipt of the complaint the individual submits under Subsection (2)(a)(i), within five business days after the submission of the complaint;
- (ii) initiate an investigation of the complaint no later than 30 days after the receipt of a complaint;
- (iii) require an institution to ensure the investigation is as thorough and expeditious as possible; and
- (iv) where appropriate, act immediately to stop a program under an athletic department until the institution is able to restore a safe environment.
- (3)(a) A degree-granting institution's board of trustees shall:
- (i) review the policies a degree-granting institution creates in accordance with Subsection (2)(a); and
- (ii) approve the policies a degree-granting institution creates if the policies meet the policy requirements listed in Subsection (2)(a).
- (b) Upon approval of the policies by a degree granting institution's board of trustees a degree-granting institution shall send the adopted policies to the board.
- Section 2. Section 53E-1-201 is amended to read:
- 53E-1-201 . Reports to and action required of the Education Interim Committee.**
- (1) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, the following recurring reports are due to the Education Interim Committee:
- (a) the report described in Section 9-22-109 by the STEM Action Center Board, including the information described in Section 9-22-113 on the status of the computer science initiative and Section 9-22-114 on the Computing Partnerships Grants Program;
- (b) the prioritized list of data research described in Section 53B-33-302 and the report on research and activities described in Section 53B-33-304 by the Utah Data Research Center;
- (c) the report described in Section 53B-1-402 by the Utah Board of Higher Education on career and technical education issues and addressing workforce needs;
- (d) the annual report of the Utah Board of Higher Education described in Section 53B-1-402;
- (e) the reports described in Section 53B-28-401 by the Utah Board of Higher Education regarding activities related to campus safety;
- (f) the State Superintendent's Annual Report by the state board described in Section

- 93 53E-1-203;
- 94 (g) the annual report described in Section 53E-2-202 by the state board on the strategic
- 95 plan to improve student outcomes;
- 96 (h) the report described in Section 53E-8-204 by the state board on the Utah Schools for
- 97 the Deaf and the Blind;
- 98 (i) the report described in Section 53E-10-703 by the Utah Leading through Effective,
- 99 Actionable, and Dynamic Education director on research and other activities;
- 100 (j) the report described in Section 53F-2-522 regarding mental health screening
- 101 programs;
- 102 (k) the report described in Section 53F-4-203 by the state board and the independent
- 103 evaluator on an evaluation of early interactive reading software;
- 104 (l) the report described in Section 63N-20-107 by the Governor's Office of Economic
- 105 Opportunity on UPSTART;
- 106 (m) the reports described in Sections 53F-5-214 and 53F-5-215 by the state board
- 107 related to grants for professional learning and grants for an elementary teacher
- 108 preparation assessment;
- 109 (n) upon request, the report described in Section 53F-5-219 by the state board on the
- 110 Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program;
- 111 (o) the report described in Section 53F-5-405 by the state board regarding an evaluation
- 112 of a partnership that receives a grant to improve educational outcomes for students
- 113 who are low income;
- 114 (p) the report described in Section 53B-35-202 regarding the Higher Education and
- 115 Corrections Council;
- 116 (q) the report described in Section 53G-7-221 by the state board regarding innovation
- 117 plans;
- 118 (r) the reports described in Section 53F-6-412 regarding the Utah Fits All Scholarship
- 119 Program.

120 (2) In accordance with applicable provisions and Section 68-3-14, the following occasional

121 reports are due to the Education Interim Committee:

- 122 (a) in 2027, 2030, 2033, and 2035, the reports described in Sections 53B-1-116,
- 123 53B-1-117, and 53B-1-118;
- 124 (b) in 2025, the report described in Section 53B-16-701 by a degree-granting institution
- 125 regarding policies on abusive coaching practices;
- 126 [(b)] (c) if required, the report described in Section 53E-4-309 by the state board

127 explaining the reasons for changing the grade level specification for the
128 administration of specific assessments;

129 [(e)] (d) if required, the report described in Section 53E-5-210 by the state board of an
130 adjustment to the minimum level that demonstrates proficiency for each statewide
131 assessment;

132 [(d)] (e) the report described in Section 53E-10-702 by Utah Leading through Effective,
133 Actionable, and Dynamic Education;

134 [(e)] (f) if required, the report described in Section 53F-2-513 by the state board
135 evaluating the effects of salary bonuses on the recruitment and retention of effective
136 teachers in high poverty schools;

137 [(f)] (g) upon request, a report described in Section 53G-7-222 by an LEA regarding
138 expenditure of a percentage of state restricted funds to support an innovative
139 education program;

140 [(g)] (h) the reports described in Section 53G-11-304 by the state board regarding
141 proposed rules and results related to educator exit surveys; and

142 [(h)] (i) the report described in Section 26B-5-113 by the Office of Substance Use and
143 Mental Health, the state board, and the Department of Health and Human Services
144 regarding recommendations related to Medicaid reimbursement for school-based
145 health services.

146 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

147 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.