

FIREARM SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Rex P. Shipp

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates a pilot program to provide a firearm safety course in public schools.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ creates a three-year pilot program to provide a one semester course in the safe handling of firearms for grades 9 through 12;
- ▶ requires a local education agency (LEA) to:
 - contract with a provider to supply materials and curriculum for the pilot program; or
 - develop curriculum for the pilot program;
- ▶ requires the State Board of Education to:
 - select LEAs to participate in the pilot program;
 - award grants to participating LEAs for curriculum and supplies for the pilot program; and
 - make rules, including rules establishing qualifications for instructors; and
- ▶ defines terms.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None



28 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

29 ENACTS:

30 **53F-5-218**, Utah Code Annotated 195331

32 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*33 Section 1. Section **53F-5-218** is enacted to read:34 **53F-5-218. Outdoor recreation firearm safety curriculum pilot program.**35 (1) As used in this section:36 (a) "Firearm" means the same as that term is defined in Section [76-10-501](#).37 (b) "Non-firing replica firearm" means a facsimile of a firearm that does not, and
38 cannot be modified to, expel a projectile by action of an explosive.39 (c) "On or about school premises" means the same as that term is defined in Section
40 [76-10-505.5](#).41 (d) "Outdoor recreation core standards" means the supplemental physical education
42 core standards for outdoor recreation that the state board adopts.43 (e) "Participating LEA" means an LEA that the state board selects to participate in the
44 pilot program.45 (f) "Participating student" means a student in grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 at a participating
46 LEA who is enrolled in a course offered in the pilot program.47 (g) "Pilot program" means the pilot program created in Subsection (2).48 (h) "Qualified instructor" means an individual who:49 (i) meets the qualifications for instructing participating students that the state board
50 adopts under Subsection (10); and51 (ii) instructs participating students in the pilot program.52 (i) "Shooting range" means the same as that term is defined in Section [47-3-102](#).53 (2) There is created a three-year pilot program to provide a one semester, 0.5 credit
54 physical education course in the safe handling of firearms to a participating student in grade 9,
55 10, 11, or 12.56 (3) Before the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, a participating LEA shall:57 (a) (i) select a provider to supply materials and curriculum for the pilot program; and58 (ii) contract with the provider to supply materials and curriculum for the pilot program;

59 or

60 (b) develop curriculum for the pilot program.

61 (4) The curriculum described in Subsection (3):

62 (a) shall:

63 (i) meet the outdoor recreation core standards;

64 (ii) meet the criteria and standards for approving a hunter education course that the

65 Division of Wildlife Resources establishes under Section [23-19-11](#);

66 (iii) comply with Section [76-10-505.5](#), governing possession of a firearm on or about

67 school premises; and

68 (iv) provide instruction in:

69 (A) the rules of firearm safety;

70 (B) the basic operation of firearms, including handguns, shotguns, and rifles;

71 (C) marksmanship and accuracy;

72 (D) state laws governing firearms; and

73 (E) suicide prevention;

74 (b) may include the use of a non-firing replica firearm on or about school premises; and

75 (c) may not include the use of a firearm on or about school premises.

76 (5) (a) A participating student may not discharge a firearm unless the participating

77 student is accompanied by a qualified instructor at a shooting range.

78 (b) A qualified instructor may not discharge a firearm as part of the qualified

79 instructor's duties under this section, unless the qualified instructor discharges a firearm at a

80 shooting range.

81 (6) A participating LEA shall obtain prior written consent from the parent or guardian

82 of a participating student before the participating student may participate in the pilot program.

83 (7) If the Division of Wildlife Resources approves a participating LEA's curriculum

84 described in Subsection (3) as a division-approved hunter education course under Section

85 [29-19-12](#), the participating LEA shall issue a certificate of completion under rules the Division

86 of Wildlife Resources establishes under Section [29-19-12](#).

87 (8) (a) An LEA may apply to the state board to participate in the pilot program.

88 (b) The state board shall select up to three LEAs to participate in the pilot program.

89 (9) Subject to legislative appropriations, the state board shall award grants to

90 participating LEAs to:

91 (a) contract with a provider to supply materials and curriculum for the pilot program;

92 or

93 (b) develop curriculum and purchase materials for the pilot program.

94 (10) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
95 the state board shall make rules to implement the pilot program, including rules that:

96 (a) establish qualifications for instructors that deliver the curriculum described in

97 Subsection (3);

98 (b) establish application procedures;

99 (c) establish a formula to determine a participating LEA's grant amount under this

100 section; and

101 (d) permit a participating student to earn 0.5 units of credit in physical education for
102 completing a course offered by a participating LEA under this section.