

**Representative Rex P. Shipp** proposes the following substitute bill:

**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



26 **Other Special Clauses:**

27 None

28 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

29 ENACTS:

30 **53F-5-218**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

32 Section 1. Section **53F-5-218** is enacted to read:

33 **53F-5-218. Outdoor recreation firearm safety curriculum pilot program.**

34 (1) As used in this section:

35 (a) "Firearm" means the same as that term is defined in Section [76-10-501](#).

36 (b) "Non-firing replica firearm" means a facsimile of a firearm that does not, and  
37 cannot be modified to, expel a projectile by action of an explosive.

38 (c) "On or about school premises" means the same as that term is defined in Section  
39 [76-10-505.5](#).

40 (d) "Outdoor recreation core standards" means the supplemental physical education  
41 core standards for outdoor recreation that the state board adopts.

42 (e) "Participating LEA" means an LEA that the state board selects to participate in the  
43 pilot program.

44 (f) "Participating student" means a student in grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 at a participating  
45 LEA who is enrolled in a course offered in the pilot program.

46 (g) "Pilot program" means the pilot program created in Subsection (2).

47 (h) "Qualified instructor" means an individual who:

48 (i) meets the qualifications for instructing participating students that the state board  
49 adopts under Subsection (10); and

50 (ii) instructs participating students in the pilot program.

51 (i) "Shooting range" means the same as that term is defined in Section [47-3-102](#).

52 (2) There is created a three-year pilot program to provide a one semester, 0.5 credit  
53 physical education course in the safe handling of firearms to a participating student in grade 9,  
54 10, 11, or 12.

55 (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; and  
58           (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 [23-19-12](#), the participating LEA shall issue a certificate of completion under rules the Division  
86 of Wildlife Resources establishes under Section [23-19-12](#).  
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 elective credits for completing a course

102 offered by a participating LEA under this section.