

1 **Higher Education Dangerous Weapon Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Walt Brooks**

Senate Sponsor:

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2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This bill addresses the carrying of dangerous weapons at an institution of higher education.

5 **Highlighted Provisions:**

6 This bill:

7 ▶ allows the carrying of a dangerous weapon on or about the premises of an institution of  
8 higher education without a valid concealed carry permit; and

9 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

10 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

11 None

12 **Other Special Clauses:**

13 None

14 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

15 AMENDS:

16 **47-3-305**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 173, 208

17 **53-5a-102.2**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 208

18 **53H-3-902**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session,

19 Chapter 8

20 REPEALS:

21 **76-11-205.5**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 208

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

23 Section 1. Section **47-3-305** is amended to read:

24 **47-3-305 . Exceptions and prohibitions.**

25 (1) This part does not apply to:

26 (a) shooting ranges that are otherwise open to the public;

27 (b) shooting ranges that are operated as a public shooting range staffed by and operated

28 by Division of Wildlife Resources;

- 31 (c) the Utah National Guard ranges located at Camp Williams and the Salt Lake  
32 International Airport;
- 33 (d) Department of Corrections ranges; and
- 34 (e) ranges owned, operated, or currently leased as of March 26, 2013, by a state or local  
35 public safety agency.

36 (2) Firearms may not be allowed in a school building, except under the provision of Section  
37 76-11-205[~~or 76-11-205.5~~], unless there is an outdoor entrance to the shooting range  
38 and the most direct access to the range is used. An outdoor entrance to a shooting range  
39 may not be blocked by fences, structures, or gates for the purpose of blocking the  
40 outdoor entrance.

41 (3) Only air guns may be used in public ranges where the ventilation systems do not meet  
42 current [~~OSHA~~] Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards as applied to  
43 the duration of exposure of the participants. For the purposes of this part, an air gun  
44 does not include larger caliber pneumatic weapons, paintball guns, or air shotguns.

45 (4) Group range use is a lawful, approved activity under Subsection 76-11-205(4)(f) or  
46 76-11-205.5(4)(g).

47 Section 2. Section **53-5a-102.2** is amended to read:

48 **53-5a-102.2 . Open and concealed carry of a firearm outside of an individual's**  
49 **residence.**

50 (1) To effectuate the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and Utah  
51 Constitution, Article I, Section 6, that prohibit the infringement of the right of the people  
52 of Utah to keep and bear arms for security and defense of self, family, others, property,  
53 or the state, as well as for other lawful purposes, and consistent with the Legislature's  
54 ability to define the lawful use of arms:

55 (a) subject to Subsections (2)(a) and (b), an individual 18 years old or older but younger  
56 than 21 years old without a provisional carry permit issued under Section 53-5a-305  
57 may only carry in an open manner:

58 (i) an unloaded rifle, shotgun, or muzzle-loading rifle in a vehicle in which the  
59 individual is lawfully present;

60 (ii) an unloaded or loaded handgun in a vehicle in which the individual is lawfully  
61 present; and

62 (iii) an unloaded firearm that the individual may otherwise lawfully carry, on a public  
63 street;

64 (b) subject to Subsections (2)(a) and (b), an individual 21 years old or older may open or

- 65 conceal carry, without a conceal carry permit:
- 66 (i) an unloaded or loaded firearm:
- 67 (A) on a public street; or
- 68 (B) in any other place not prohibited by, or pursuant to, state statute or federal law;
- 69 (ii) an unloaded or loaded handgun in a vehicle in which the individual is lawfully
- 70 present; and
- 71 (iii) an unloaded rifle, shotgun, or muzzle-loading rifle in a vehicle in which the
- 72 individual is lawfully present; and
- 73 (c) subject to Subsections (2)(c) and (d), an individual 18 years old or older with a
- 74 concealed carry permit issued under Section 53-5a-303, a temporary concealed carry
- 75 permit issued under Section 53-5a-304, a provisional concealed carry permit issued
- 76 under Section 53-5a-305, or a concealed carry permit lawfully issued by or in another
- 77 state, may open or conceal carry a loaded or unloaded firearm:
- 78 (i) in a vehicle in which the individual is lawfully present;
- 79 (ii) on a public street; or
- 80 (iii) in any other place not prohibited by, or pursuant to, state statute or federal law.
- 81 (2)(a) An individual openly carrying a firearm under Subsection (1)(a) or (b) without a
- 82 concealed carry permit may not carry the firearm:
- 83 (i) in a secure area established in accordance with Section 76-8-311.1 in which
- 84 dangerous weapons are prohibited and notice of the prohibition is posted;
- 85 (ii) on or about the premises of a public or private elementary school or secondary
- 86 school as described in Section 76-11-205;
- 87 [~~(iii) on or about the premises of an institution of higher education as described in~~
- 88 ~~Section 76-11-205.5;~~]
- 89 [(~~iv~~)] (iii) on or about the premises of a daycare as described in Section 76-11-206;
- 90 [(~~v~~)] (iv) in an airport secure area as described in Section 76-11-218;
- 91 [(~~vi~~)] (v) in a house of worship or in any private residence where dangerous weapons
- 92 are prohibited as described in Section 76-11-219; or
- 93 [(~~vii~~)] (vi) in any other place prohibited by, or pursuant to, another state statute or
- 94 federal law.
- 95 (b) An individual 21 years old or older concealing a firearm without a concealed carry
- 96 permit under Subsection (1)(b) may not carry the firearm:
- 97 (i) in a secure area established in accordance with Section 76-8-311.1 in which
- 98 dangerous weapons are prohibited and notice of the prohibition is posted;

- 99 (ii) on or about the school premises of a public or private elementary school or  
 100 secondary school as described in Section 76-11-205;
- 101 [~~(iii) on or about the premises of an institution of higher education as described in~~  
 102 ~~Section 76-11-205.5;~~]
- 103 [~~(iv)~~] (iii) on or about a daycare premises as described in Section 76-11-206;
- 104 [~~(v)~~] (iv) in an airport secure area as described in Section 76-11-218;
- 105 [~~(vi)~~] (v) in a house of worship or in any private residence where dangerous weapons  
 106 are prohibited as described in Section 76-11-219; or
- 107 [~~(vii)~~] (vi) in any other place prohibited by, or pursuant to, another state statute or  
 108 federal law.
- 109 (c) Subject to Subsection (2)(d), an individual with a concealed carry permit under  
 110 Subsection (1)(c) may not carry the firearm in any manner:
- 111 (i) in a secure area established in accordance with Section 76-8-311.1 in which  
 112 dangerous weapons are prohibited and notice of the prohibition posted;
- 113 (ii) in an airport secure area as described in Section 76-11-218;
- 114 (iii) in a house of worship or in any private residence where dangerous weapons are  
 115 prohibited as described in Section 76-11-219; or
- 116 (iv) in any other place prohibited by, or pursuant to, another state statute or federal  
 117 law.
- 118 (d) In addition to the locations described in Subsection (2)(c):
- 119 (i) an individual 18 years old but younger than 21 years old with a provisional  
 120 concealed carry permit under Section 53-5a-304 may not carry the firearm in any  
 121 manner on or about the premises of a public or private elementary school or  
 122 secondary school as described in Section 76-11-205; and
- 123 (ii) an individual concealing a firearm only with a concealed carry permit lawfully  
 124 issued by or in another state may not carry the firearm in any manner:
- 125 (A) on or about the premises of a public or private elementary school or secondary  
 126 school as described in Section 76-11-205; or
- 127 [~~(B) on or about the premises of an institution of higher education as described in~~  
 128 ~~Section 76-11-205.5; or]~~
- 129 [~~(C)~~] (B) on or about the premises of a daycare as described in Section 76-11-206.
- 130 (3) This section does not prohibit:
- 131 (a) the owner or lawful possessor of a vehicle from prohibiting another individual from  
 132 carrying a firearm in the owner or lawful possessor's vehicle; or

133 (b) except as provided in Section 53-5a-102.3, the owner or lawful lessee of private real  
 134 property from prohibiting another individual from possessing a firearm on the  
 135 property.

136 (4) An individual is lawfully present in a vehicle while carrying a firearm under this section  
 137 if:

138 (a) the vehicle is in the lawful possession of the individual; or

139 (b) the individual has the consent of the person lawfully in possession of the vehicle to  
 140 carry the firearm in the vehicle.

141 Section 3. Section **53H-3-902** is amended to read:

142 **53H-3-902 . Power of board and institutions to adopt rules and enact regulations.**

143 (1) As used in this section, "face covering" means the same as that term is defined in Section  
 144 53G-9-210.

145 (2)(a) The board may enact regulations governing the conduct of university and college  
 146 students, faculty, and employees.

147 (b) A president in consultation with the board of trustees, may enact policies governing  
 148 the conduct of university and college students, faculty, and employees.

149 (3)(a) An institution may enact traffic, parking, and related policies governing all  
 150 individuals on campus and facilities owned or controlled by the institution.

151 (b)(i) The board and an institution may not require proof of vaccination as a  
 152 condition for enrollment or attendance within the system of higher education  
 153 unless the board or an institution allows for the following exemptions:

154 (A) a medical exemption if the student provides to the institution a statement that  
 155 the claimed exemption is for a medical reason; and

156 (B) a personal exemption if the student provides to the institution a statement that  
 157 the claimed exemption is for a personal or religious belief.

158 (ii) An institution that offers both remote and in-person learning options may not  
 159 deny a student who is exempt from a requirement to receive a vaccine under  
 160 Subsection (3)(b)(i) to participate in an in-person learning option based upon the  
 161 student's vaccination status.

162 (iii) Subsections (3)(b)(i) and (ii) do not apply to a student studying in a medical  
 163 setting at an institution of higher education.

164 (iv) Nothing in this section restricts a state or local health department from acting  
 165 under applicable law to contain the spread of an infectious disease.

166 (c)(i) The board or an institution may not require an individual to wear a face

167 covering as a condition of attendance for in-person instruction,  
168 institution-sponsored athletics, institution-sponsored extracurricular activities, in  
169 dormitories, or in any other place on a campus of an institution within the system  
170 of higher education at any time after the end of the spring semester in 2021.

171 (ii) Subsection (3)(c)(i) does not apply to an individual in a medical setting at an  
172 institution of higher education.

173 (4) The board shall enact regulations that require all testimony be given under oath during  
174 an employee grievance hearing for a non-faculty employee of an institution of higher  
175 education if the grievance hearing relates to the non-faculty employee's:

176 (a) demotion; or

177 (b) termination.

178 (5) Acknowledging that the Legislature has the authority to regulate, by law, firearms at  
179 higher education institutions, the board may:

180 (a) authorize higher education institutions to establish no more than one secure area at  
181 each institution as a hearing room in accordance with Section 76-8-311.1, but not  
182 otherwise restrict the lawful possession or carrying of firearms; and

183 (b) authorize a higher education institution to make a policy that allows a resident of a  
184 dormitory located at the institution to request only roommates who ~~[are not licensed~~  
185 ~~to carry a concealed firearm under Section 53-5a-303 or Section 53-5a-305]~~ choose  
186 not to lawfully possess firearms in the resident's dormitory as allowed in Section  
187 53-5a-102.3.

188 (6) In addition to the requirements and penalty prescribed in Sections 76-8-311.1 and  
189 76-8-311.2, the board shall make rules to ensure:

190 (a) the use of reasonable means such as mechanical, electronic, x-ray, or similar devices,  
191 to detect firearms, ammunition, or dangerous weapons contained in the personal  
192 property of or on the person of any individual attempting to enter a secure area  
193 hearing room;

194 (b) that an individual required or requested to attend a hearing in a secure area hearing  
195 room is notified in writing of the requirements related to entering a secure area  
196 hearing room under this Subsection (6)(b) and Section 76-8-311.1;

197 (c) that the restriction of firearms, ammunition, or dangerous weapons in the secure area  
198 hearing room is in effect only during the time the secure area hearing room is in use  
199 for hearings and for a reasonable time before and after the hearing; and

200 (d) the application of reasonable space limitations to the secure area hearing room as the

- 201 number of individuals involved in a typical hearing warrants.
- 202 (7) The board and institutions may enforce the rules, regulations, and policies described in
- 203 this section in any reasonable manner, including the assessment of fees, fines, and
- 204 forfeitures, through:
- 205 (a) withholding from money owed the violator;
- 206 (b) the imposition of probation, suspension, or expulsion from the institution;
- 207 (c) the revocation of privileges;
- 208 (d) the refusal to issue certificates, degrees, and diplomas;
- 209 (e) judicial process; or
- 210 (f) any reasonable combination of the alternatives described in this Subsection (7).

211 Section 4. **Repealer.**

212 This bill repeals:

213 Section **76-11-205.5, Carrying a dangerous weapon at an institution of higher education.**

214 Section 5. **Effective Date.**

215 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.