

# HB0084S03 compared with HB0084

~~{Omitted text}~~ shows text that was in HB0084 but was omitted in HB0084S03

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0084 but was inserted into HB0084S03

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1                                    **{Higher Education} Dangerous Weapon Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Walt Brooks**

Senate Sponsor:



2

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

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

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7        This bill:

8            ▶ allows ~~{the carrying of}~~ an individual 21 years old or older to conceal a dangerous weapon  
9            ~~{on or about the premises of}~~ at an institution of higher education without a ~~{valid}~~ concealed carry  
10            permit; ~~{and}~~

11            ▶ amends the offense of carrying a dangerous weapon at an institution of higher education  
12            by:

13                    • renaming the offense to "Openly carrying a dangerous weapon at an institution of  
14                    higher education";

15                    • removing private institutions of higher education from locations where the offense is  
16                    applicable; and

16                    •

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prohibiting an individual, including an individual with any type of concealed carry permit, from openly carrying a dangerous weapon at an institution of higher education unless the individual is lawfully responding to an active threat;

19       ▸ clarifies that an individual 18 years old or older but younger than 21 years old may carry, in an open manner, an unloaded firearm in any public location not prohibited by state statute or federal law;

22       ▸ clarifies that an individual who has a concealed carry permit that allows the individual to carry on the grounds of an elementary school or secondary school may not open carry a dangerous weapon on the grounds of an elementary school or secondary school unless the individual is lawfully responding to an active threat; and

10       ▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

### 27 Money Appropriated in this Bill:

28       None

### 29 Other Special Clauses:

30       None

### 31 Utah Code Sections Affected:

32 AMENDS:

17       ~~{47-3-305, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 173, 208}~~

33       53-5a-102.2, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 208

34       53H-3-902, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 8

36       76-11-205, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 173, 208

37       76-11-205.5, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 208

REPEALS:

22       ~~{76-11-205.5, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 208}~~

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

25       ~~{Section 1. Section 47-3-305 is amended to read: }~~

26       **47-3-305. Exceptions and prohibitions.**

27       (1) This part does not apply to:

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

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(b) shooting ranges that are operated as a public shooting range staffed by and operated by Division of Wildlife Resources;

31 (c) the Utah National Guard ranges located at Camp Williams and the Salt Lake 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 public safety agency.

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

41 (3) Only air guns may be used in public ranges where the ventilation systems do not meet current  
[OSHA] Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards as applied to the duration of  
exposure of the participants. For the purposes of this part, an air gun 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 76-11-205.5(4)  
(g).

40 Section 1. Section **53-5a-102.2** is amended to read:

41 **53-5a-102.2. Open and concealed carry of a firearm outside of an individual's residence.**

50 (1) To effectuate the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and Utah Constitution,  
Article I, Section 6, that prohibit the infringement of the right of the people of Utah to keep and bear  
arms for security and defense of self, family, others, property, or the state, as well as for other lawful  
purposes, and consistent with the Legislature's 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 than 21 years  
old without a provisional concealed carry permit issued under Section 53-5a-305 and who may  
otherwise lawfully possess firearms, may only carry in an open manner:

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

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

62 (iii) an unloaded firearm that the individual may otherwise lawfully carry<sup>[5]</sup> :

57 (A) [-] on a public street; or

58 (B) in any other public location not prohibited by, or in accordance with, state statute or federal law;

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

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~~{(vii){}}~~ ~~{(vi)}~~ in any other place prohibited by, or pursuant to, another state statute or federal law.

95 (b) An individual 21 years old or older ~~concealing a firearm~~ without a concealed carry permit under  
Subsection (1)(b) may not:

96 (i) ~~[-]~~ carry ~~the~~ a firearm in any manner:

97 (i) (A) in a secure area established in accordance with Section 76-8-311.1 in which dangerous  
weapons are prohibited and notice of the prohibition is posted;

99 (ii) (B) on or about the school premises of a public or private elementary school or 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 Section 76-11-205.5;]~~

103 ~~[(iv)]~~ (iii) (C) on or about a daycare premises as described in Section 76-11-206;

104 ~~[(v)]~~ (iv) (D) in an airport secure area as described in Section 76-11-218;

105 ~~[(vi)]~~ (v) (E) in a house of worship or in any private residence where dangerous weapons are  
prohibited as described in Section 76-11-219; or

107 ~~[(vii)]~~ (vi) (F) in any other place prohibited by, or pursuant to, another state statute or federal law ~~[-]~~ ;  
or

109 (ii) openly carry a firearm, unless lawfully responding to an active threat in accordance with Section  
76-2-402, 76-2-405, or 76-2-407, on or about the premises of an institution of higher education as  
described in Section 76-11-205.5.

109 (c) Subject to Subsection (2)(d), an individual with a concealed carry permit under Subsection (1)(c)  
may not ~~[-]~~ :

114 (i) carry ~~the~~ a firearm in any manner:

111 (i) (A) in a secure area established in accordance with Section 76-8-311.1 in which dangerous  
weapons are prohibited and notice of the prohibition posted;

113 (ii) (B) in an airport secure area as described in Section 76-11-218;

114 (iii) (C) in a house of worship or in any private residence where dangerous weapons are prohibited as  
described in Section 76-11-219; or

116 ~~[(iv)]~~ (D) in any other place prohibited by, or pursuant to, another state statute or federal law ~~[-]~~ ; or

122 (ii) openly carry a firearm, unless lawfully responding to an active threat in accordance with Section  
76-2-402, 76-2-405, or 76-2-407:

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(A) on or about the premises of a public or private elementary school or secondary school as described in Section 76-11-205; or

126 (B) on or about the premises of an institution of higher education as described in Section 76-11-205.5.

118 (d) In addition to the [locations] restrictions described in Subsection (2)(c):

119 (i) an individual 18 years old but younger than 21 years old with a provisional concealed carry permit under Section 53-5a-304 may not carry [the] a firearm in any manner on or about the premises of a public or private elementary school or secondary school as described in Section 76-11-205; and

123 (ii) an individual [concealing a firearm only] with only a concealed carry permit lawfully issued by or in another state may not carry [the] a firearm in any manner:

125 (A) on or about the premises of a public or private elementary school or secondary 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 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 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 property from prohibiting another individual from possessing a firearm on the property.

136 (4) An individual is lawfully present in a vehicle while carrying a firearm under this section 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 carry the firearm in the vehicle.

151 Section 2. Section **53H-3-902** is amended to read:

152 **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 53G-9-210.

145 (2)

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

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- (b) A president in consultation with the board of trustees, may enact policies governing the conduct of university and college students, faculty, and employees.
- 149 (3)
- (a) An institution may enact traffic, parking, and related policies governing all 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 condition for enrollment or attendance within the system of higher education 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 the claimed exemption is for a medical reason; and
- 156 (B) a personal exemption if the student provides to the institution a statement that 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 deny a student who is exempt from a requirement to receive a vaccine under Subsection (3)(b)(i) to participate in an in-person learning option based upon the student's vaccination status.
- 162 (iii) Subsections (3)(b)(i) and (ii) do not apply to a student studying in a medical setting at an institution of higher education.
- 164 (iv) Nothing in this section restricts a state or local health department from acting 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 covering as a condition of attendance for in-person instruction, institution-sponsored athletics, institution-sponsored extracurricular activities, in dormitories, or in any other place on a campus of an institution within the system 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 institution of higher education.
- 173 (4) The board shall enact regulations that require all testimony be given under oath during an employee grievance hearing for a non-faculty employee of an institution of higher education if the grievance hearing relates to the non-faculty employee's:
- 176 (a) demotion; or

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- 177 (b) termination.
- 178 (5) Acknowledging that the Legislature has the authority to regulate, by law, firearms at higher  
education institutions, the board may:
- 180 (a) authorize higher education institutions to establish no more than one secure area at each institution  
as a hearing room in accordance with Section 76-8-311.1, but not 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 dormitory  
located at the institution to request only roommates who [~~are not licensed to carry a concealed  
firearm under Section 53-5a-303 or Section 53-5a-305~~] choose not to {lawfully} possess firearms  
in the resident's {dormitory as allowed} ~~dorm~~ that the roommates may otherwise lawfully possess  
in {Section 53-5a-102.3} the dormitory.
- 188 (6) In addition to the requirements and penalty prescribed in Sections 76-8-311.1 and 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, to detect  
firearms, ammunition, or dangerous weapons contained in the personal property of or on the person  
of any individual attempting to enter a secure area hearing room;
- 194 (b) that an individual required or requested to attend a hearing in a secure area hearing room is notified  
in writing of the requirements related to entering a secure area 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 hearing  
room is in effect only during the time the secure area hearing room is in use 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 number of  
individuals involved in a typical hearing warrants.
- 202 (7) The board and institutions may enforce the rules, regulations, and policies described in this section  
in any reasonable manner, including the assessment of fees, fines, and 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

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210 (f) any reasonable combination of the alternatives described in this Subsection (7).

221 Section 3. Section 76-11-205 is amended to read:

222 **76-11-205. Carrying a dangerous weapon at an elementary school or secondary school.**

224 (1)

(a) As used in this section, "on or about school premises" means:

225 (i) in a public or private elementary school or secondary school; or

226 (ii) on the grounds of a private elementary school or secondary school.

227 (b) Terms defined in Sections 76-1-101.5, 76-11-101, and 76-11-201 apply to this section.

229 (2) An actor commits carrying a dangerous weapon at an elementary school or secondary school if the actor:

231 (a) is not an individual listed in Subsection (4);

232 (b) carries a dangerous weapon on or about school premises; and

233 (c) knows or reasonably believes that the actor is on or about school premises at the time the actor carries the dangerous weapon.

235 (3)

(a) A violation of Subsection (2) is a class B misdemeanor if the dangerous weapon carried by the actor is not a firearm.

237 (b) A violation of Subsection (2) is a class A misdemeanor if the dangerous weapon carried by the actor is a firearm.

239 (4) This section does not apply if:

240 (a) the actor is an individual exempt from certain weapons laws as described in Section 53-5a-108;

242 (b) the actor is 21 years old or older and has a concealed carry permit as described in Section 53-5a-303 and is carrying the actor's dangerous weapon in a concealed manner unless lawfully responding to an active threat in accordance with Section 76-2-402, 76-2-405, or 76-2-407;

246 (c) the actor is 21 years old or older and has a temporary concealed carry permit issued under Section 53-5a-305 and is carrying the actor's dangerous weapon in a concealed manner unless lawfully responding to an active threat in accordance with Section 76-2-402, 76-2-405, or 76-2-407;

250 (d) the actor is carrying the dangerous weapon at the actor's place of residence or on the actor's real property;

252 (e) the possession of the dangerous weapon is approved by the responsible school administrator;

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(f) the dangerous weapon is present or to be used in connection with a lawful, approved activity and is in the possession or under the control of the actor responsible for the dangerous weapon's possession or use;

257 (g) the actor is an armed school security guard as described in Section 53G-8-704; or

258 (h) the actor is carrying the dangerous weapon in a vehicle lawfully under the actor's control, not including a vehicle owned by the school or used by the school to transport students.

261 (5) This section does not:

262 (a) prohibit prosecution of another criminal offense that may occur on or about school premises; or

264 (b) prevent an actor from securely storing a firearm on the grounds of a school if the actor:

266 (i) participates in:

267 (A) the school guardian program created in Section 53-22-105; or

268 (B) the Educator-Protector Program created in Section 53-22-107; and

269 (ii) complies with the requirements for securely storing the firearm described in Subsection 53-22-107(5)(a).

271 Section 4. Section 76-11-205.5 is amended to read:

272 **76-11-205.5. Openly carrying a dangerous weapon at an institution of higher education.**

274 (1) As used in this section, "on or about school premises" means:

275 (a) in a public [~~or private~~] institution of higher education; or

276 (b) on the grounds of a public [~~or private~~] institution of higher education.

277 (2) An actor commits openly carrying a dangerous weapon at an institution of higher education if [~~the actor~~]:

279 [~~(a) is not an individual listed in Subsection (4);~~]

280 [~~(b)~~] (a) the actor intentionally carries a dangerous weapon on or about school premises; [~~and~~]

282 (b) the actor intentionally carries the dangerous weapon in a manner that the dangerous weapon is visible to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person;

284 (c) the dangerous weapon is not covered, hidden, or secreted in a way that would make the dangerous weapon's presence unobservable to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person; and

287 [~~(e)~~] (d) the actor knows, or reasonably believes, that the actor is on or about school premises at the time the actor carries the dangerous weapon.

289 (3)

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[~~(a)~~ A violation of Subsection (2) is a class ~~B~~ misdemeanor if the dangerous weapon carried by the actor is not a firearm.]

291 [~~(b)~~] A violation of Subsection (2) is a class ~~[A]~~ B misdemeanor [~~if the dangerous weapon carried by the actor is a firearm~~].

293 (4) This section does not apply if:

294 (a) the actor is an individual exempt from certain weapons laws as described in Section 53-5a-108;

296 (b) the actor is intending to conceal the dangerous weapon and accidentally or inadvertently exposes the dangerous weapon to public view;

298 (c) the actor is openly carrying the dangerous weapon while lawfully responding to an active threat in accordance with Section 76-2-402, 76-2-405, or 76-2-407;

300 [~~(b)~~] ~~the actor has a concealed carry permit as described in Section 53-5a-303;~~

301 [~~(e)~~] ~~the actor has a provisional concealed carry permit as described in Section 53-5a-304;~~

302 [~~(d)~~] ~~the actor has a temporary concealed carry permit issued under Section 53-5a-305;~~

303 [~~(e)~~] (d) the actor is openly carrying the dangerous weapon at the actor's place of residence or on the actor's real property;

305 [~~(f)~~] (e) the [~~possession of the dangerous weapon~~] open carrying of the dangerous weapon is approved by the responsible school administrator;

307 [~~(g)~~] (f) the dangerous weapon is present or to be used in connection with a lawful, approved activity and is in the possession or under the control of the actor responsible for the dangerous weapon's possession or use; or

310 [~~(h)~~] (g) the actor is openly carrying the dangerous weapon in a vehicle lawfully under the actor's control, not including a vehicle owned by the school or used by the school to transport students.

313 (5) This section does not prohibit prosecution of another criminal offense that may occur on or about school premises.

315 Section 5. **Effective date.**

Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.

Section 6. **Repealer.**

This Bill Repeals:

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

2-12-26 10:41 AM