

Jordan D. Teuscher proposes the following substitute bill:

Judicial Conduct Commission Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jordan D. Teuscher

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions relating to the Judicial Conduct Commission.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- provides that certain records of the Judicial Conduct Commission are protected;
- requires a prosecutor to file a complaint with the Judicial Conduct Commission under certain circumstances;
- requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to file a complaint with the Judicial Conduct Commission under certain circumstances;
- requires the Judicial Conduct Commission to annually report certain information to the Legislature; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

63G-2-305, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 17

78A-11-106, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 394

ENACTS:

77-2-10, Utah Code Annotated 1953

78A-11-114, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

29 Section 1. Section **63G-2-305** is amended to read:

30 **63G-2-305 . Protected records.**

31 The following records are protected if properly classified by a governmental entity:

- 32 (1) trade secrets as defined in Section 13-24-2 if the person submitting the trade secret has
33 provided the governmental entity with the information specified in Section 63G-2-309;
- 34 (2) commercial information or nonindividual financial information obtained from a person
35 if:
- 36 (a) disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to result in unfair
37 competitive injury to the person submitting the information or would impair the
38 ability of the governmental entity to obtain necessary information in the future;
 - 39 (b) the person submitting the information has a greater interest in prohibiting access than
40 the public in obtaining access; and
 - 41 (c) the person submitting the information has provided the governmental entity with the
42 information specified in Section 63G-2-309;
- 43 (3) commercial or financial information acquired or prepared by a governmental entity to
44 the extent that disclosure would lead to financial speculations in currencies, securities, or
45 commodities that will interfere with a planned transaction by the governmental entity or
46 cause substantial financial injury to the governmental entity or state economy;
- 47 (4) records, the disclosure of which could cause commercial injury to, or confer a
48 competitive advantage upon a potential or actual competitor of, a commercial project
49 entity as defined in Subsection 11-13-103(4);
- 50 (5) test questions and answers to be used in future license, certification, registration,
51 employment, or academic examinations;
- 52 (6) records, the disclosure of which would impair governmental procurement proceedings
53 or give an unfair advantage to any person proposing to enter into a contract or agreement
54 with a governmental entity, except, subject to Subsections (1) and (2), that this
55 Subsection (6) does not restrict the right of a person to have access to, after the contract
56 or grant has been awarded and signed by all parties:
- 57 (a) a bid, proposal, application, or other information submitted to or by a governmental
58 entity in response to:
 - 59 (i) an invitation for bids;
 - 60 (ii) a request for proposals;
 - 61 (iii) a request for quotes;
 - 62 (iv) a grant; or

- 63 (v) other similar document; or
- 64 (b) an unsolicited proposal, as defined in Section 63G-6a-712;
- 65 (7) information submitted to or by a governmental entity in response to a request for
- 66 information, except, subject to Subsections (1) and (2), that this Subsection (7) does not
- 67 restrict the right of a person to have access to the information, after:
- 68 (a) a contract directly relating to the subject of the request for information has been
- 69 awarded and signed by all parties; or
- 70 (b)(i) a final determination is made not to enter into a contract that relates to the
- 71 subject of the request for information; and
- 72 (ii) at least two years have passed after the day on which the request for information
- 73 is issued;
- 74 (8) records that would identify real property or the appraisal or estimated value of real or
- 75 personal property, including intellectual property, under consideration for public
- 76 acquisition before any rights to the property are acquired unless:
- 77 (a) public interest in obtaining access to the information is greater than or equal to the
- 78 governmental entity's need to acquire the property on the best terms possible;
- 79 (b) the information has already been disclosed to persons not employed by or under a
- 80 duty of confidentiality to the entity;
- 81 (c) in the case of records that would identify property, potential sellers of the described
- 82 property have already learned of the governmental entity's plans to acquire the
- 83 property;
- 84 (d) in the case of records that would identify the appraisal or estimated value of
- 85 property, the potential sellers have already learned of the governmental entity's
- 86 estimated value of the property; or
- 87 (e) the property under consideration for public acquisition is a single family residence
- 88 and the governmental entity seeking to acquire the property has initiated negotiations
- 89 to acquire the property as required under Section 78B-6-505;
- 90 (9) records prepared in contemplation of sale, exchange, lease, rental, or other compensated
- 91 transaction of real or personal property including intellectual property, which, if
- 92 disclosed prior to completion of the transaction, would reveal the appraisal or estimated
- 93 value of the subject property, unless:
- 94 (a) the public interest in access is greater than or equal to the interests in restricting
- 95 access, including the governmental entity's interest in maximizing the financial
- 96 benefit of the transaction; or

- 97 (b) when prepared by or on behalf of a governmental entity, appraisals or estimates of
98 the value of the subject property have already been disclosed to persons not
99 employed by or under a duty of confidentiality to the entity;
- 100 (10) records created or maintained for civil, criminal, or administrative enforcement
101 purposes or audit purposes, or for discipline, licensing, certification, or registration
102 purposes, if release of the records:
- 103 (a) reasonably could be expected to interfere with investigations undertaken for
104 enforcement, discipline, licensing, certification, or registration purposes;
- 105 (b) reasonably could be expected to interfere with audits, disciplinary, or enforcement
106 proceedings;
- 107 (c) would create a danger of depriving a person of a right to a fair trial or impartial
108 hearing;
- 109 (d) reasonably could be expected to disclose the identity of a source who is not generally
110 known outside of government and, in the case of a record compiled in the course of
111 an investigation, disclose information furnished by a source not generally known
112 outside of government if disclosure would compromise the source; or
- 113 (e) reasonably could be expected to disclose investigative or audit techniques,
114 procedures, policies, or orders not generally known outside of government if
115 disclosure would interfere with enforcement or audit efforts;
- 116 (11) records the disclosure of which would jeopardize the life or safety of an individual;
- 117 (12) records the disclosure of which would jeopardize the security of governmental
118 property, governmental programs, or governmental recordkeeping systems from
119 damage, theft, or other appropriation or use contrary to law or public policy;
- 120 (13) records that, if disclosed, would jeopardize the security or safety of a correctional
121 facility, or records relating to incarceration, treatment, probation, or parole, that would
122 interfere with the control and supervision of an offender's incarceration, treatment,
123 probation, or parole;
- 124 (14) records that, if disclosed, would reveal recommendations made to the Board of
125 Pardons and Parole by an employee of or contractor for the Department of Corrections,
126 the Board of Pardons and Parole, or the Department of Health and Human Services that
127 are based on the employee's or contractor's supervision, diagnosis, or treatment of any
128 person within the board's jurisdiction;
- 129 (15) records and audit workpapers that identify audit, collection, and operational procedures
130 and methods used by the State Tax Commission, if disclosure would interfere with

- 131 audits or collections;
- 132 (16) records of a governmental audit agency relating to an ongoing or planned audit until
133 the final audit is released;
- 134 (17) records that are subject to the attorney client privilege;
- 135 (18) records prepared for or by an attorney, consultant, surety, indemnitor, insurer,
136 employee, or agent of a governmental entity for, or in anticipation of, litigation or a
137 judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative proceeding;
- 138 (19)(a)(i) personal files of a state legislator, including personal correspondence to or
139 from a member of the Legislature; and
- 140 (ii) notwithstanding Subsection (19)(a)(i), correspondence that gives notice of
141 legislative action or policy may not be classified as protected under this section;
142 and
- 143 (b)(i) an internal communication that is part of the deliberative process in connection
144 with the preparation of legislation between:
- 145 (A) members of a legislative body;
- 146 (B) a member of a legislative body and a member of the legislative body's staff; or
147 (C) members of a legislative body's staff; and
- 148 (ii) notwithstanding Subsection (19)(b)(i), a communication that gives notice of
149 legislative action or policy may not be classified as protected under this section;
- 150 (20)(a) records in the custody or control of the Office of Legislative Research and
151 General Counsel, that, if disclosed, would reveal a particular legislator's
152 contemplated legislation or contemplated course of action before the legislator has
153 elected to support the legislation or course of action, or made the legislation or course
154 of action public; and
- 155 (b) notwithstanding Subsection (20)(a), the form to request legislation submitted to the
156 Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel is a public document unless a
157 legislator asks that the records requesting the legislation be maintained as protected
158 records until such time as the legislator elects to make the legislation or course of
159 action public;
- 160 (21) a research request from a legislator to a legislative staff member and research findings
161 prepared in response to the request;
- 162 (22) drafts, unless otherwise classified as public;
- 163 (23) records concerning a governmental entity's strategy about:
- 164 (a) collective bargaining; or

- 165 (b) imminent or pending litigation;
- 166 (24) records of investigations of loss occurrences and analyses of loss occurrences that may
167 be covered by the Risk Management Fund, the Employers' Reinsurance Fund, the
168 Uninsured Employers' Fund, or similar divisions in other governmental entities;
- 169 (25) records, other than personnel evaluations, that contain a personal recommendation
170 concerning an individual if disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion
171 of personal privacy, or disclosure is not in the public interest;
- 172 (26) records that reveal the location of historic, prehistoric, paleontological, or biological
173 resources that if known would jeopardize the security of those resources or of valuable
174 historic, scientific, educational, or cultural information;
- 175 (27) records of independent state agencies if the disclosure of the records would conflict
176 with the fiduciary obligations of the agency;
- 177 (28) records of an institution of higher education defined in Section 53H-1-101 regarding
178 tenure evaluations, appointments, applications for admissions, retention decisions, and
179 promotions, which could be properly discussed in a meeting closed in accordance with
180 Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings Act, provided that records of the final
181 decisions about tenure, appointments, retention, promotions, or those students admitted,
182 may not be classified as protected under this section;
- 183 (29) records of the governor's office, including budget recommendations, legislative
184 proposals, and policy statements, that if disclosed would reveal the governor's
185 contemplated policies or contemplated courses of action before the governor has
186 implemented or rejected those policies or courses of action or made them public;
- 187 (30) records of the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst relating to budget analysis,
188 revenue estimates, and fiscal notes of proposed legislation before issuance of the final
189 recommendations in these areas;
- 190 (31) records provided by the United States or by a government entity outside the state that
191 are given to the governmental entity with a requirement that they be managed as
192 protected records if the providing entity certifies that the record would not be subject to
193 public disclosure if retained by it;
- 194 (32) transcripts, minutes, recordings, or reports of the closed portion of a meeting of a
195 public body except as provided in Section 52-4-206;
- 196 (33) records that would reveal the contents of settlement negotiations but not including final
197 settlements or empirical data to the extent that they are not otherwise exempt from
198 disclosure;

- 199 (34) memoranda prepared by staff and used in the decision-making process by an
200 administrative law judge, a member of the Board of Pardons and Parole, or a member of
201 any other body charged by law with performing a quasi-judicial function;
- 202 (35) records that would reveal negotiations regarding assistance or incentives offered by or
203 requested from a governmental entity for the purpose of encouraging a person to expand
204 or locate a business in Utah, but only if disclosure would result in actual economic harm
205 to the person or place the governmental entity at a competitive disadvantage, but this
206 section may not be used to restrict access to a record evidencing a final contract;
- 207 (36) materials to which access must be limited for purposes of securing or maintaining the
208 governmental entity's proprietary protection of intellectual property rights including
209 patents, copyrights, and trade secrets;
- 210 (37) the name of a donor or a prospective donor to a governmental entity, including an
211 institution of higher education defined in Section 53H-1-101, and other information
212 concerning the donation that could reasonably be expected to reveal the identity of the
213 donor, provided that:
- 214 (a) the donor requests anonymity in writing;
- 215 (b) any terms, conditions, restrictions, or privileges relating to the donation may not be
216 classified protected by the governmental entity under this Subsection (37); and
- 217 (c) except for an institution of higher education defined in Section 53H-1-101, the
218 governmental unit to which the donation is made is primarily engaged in educational,
219 charitable, or artistic endeavors, and has no regulatory or legislative authority over
220 the donor, a member of the donor's immediate family, or any entity owned or
221 controlled by the donor or the donor's immediate family;
- 222 (38) accident reports, except as provided in Sections 41-6a-404, 41-12a-202, and 73-18-13;
- 223 (39) a notification of workers' compensation insurance coverage described in Section
224 34A-2-205;
- 225 (40) subject to Subsections (40)(g) and (h), the following records of an institution of higher
226 education defined in Section 53H-1-101, which have been developed, discovered,
227 disclosed to, or received by or on behalf of faculty, staff, employees, or students of the
228 institution:
- 229 (a) unpublished lecture notes;
- 230 (b) unpublished notes, data, and information:
- 231 (i) relating to research; and
- 232 (ii) of:

- 233 (A) the institution of higher education defined in Section 53H-1-101; or
234 (B) a sponsor of sponsored research;
- 235 (c) unpublished manuscripts;
236 (d) creative works in process;
237 (e) scholarly correspondence;[-and]
238 (f) confidential information contained in research proposals;
239 (g) this Subsection (40) may not be construed to prohibit disclosure of public
240 information required [~~pursuant to~~] in accordance with Subsection 53H-14-202(2)(a)
241 or (b); and
242 (h) this Subsection (40) may not be construed to affect the ownership of a record;
- 243 (41)(a) records in the custody or control of the Office of the Legislative Auditor General
244 that would reveal the name of a particular legislator who requests a legislative audit
245 prior to the date that audit is completed and made public; and
246 (b) notwithstanding Subsection (41)(a), a request for a legislative audit submitted to the
247 Office of the Legislative Auditor General is a public document unless the legislator
248 asks that the records in the custody or control of the Office of the Legislative Auditor
249 General that would reveal the name of a particular legislator who requests a
250 legislative audit be maintained as protected records until the audit is completed and
251 made public;
- 252 (42) records that provide detail as to the location of an explosive, including a map or other
253 document that indicates the location of:
254 (a) a production facility; or
255 (b) a magazine;
- 256 (43) information contained in the statewide database of the Division of Aging and Adult
257 Services created by Section 26B-6-210;
- 258 (44) information contained in the Licensing Information System described in Title 80,
259 Chapter 2, Child Welfare Services;
- 260 (45) information regarding National Guard operations or activities in support of the
261 National Guard's federal mission;
- 262 (46) records provided by any pawn or secondhand business to a law enforcement agency or
263 to the central database in compliance with Title 13, Chapter 32a, Pawnshop, Secondhand
264 Merchandise, and Catalytic Converter Transaction Information Act;
- 265 (47) information regarding food security, risk, and vulnerability assessments performed by
266 the Department of Agriculture and Food;

- 267 (48) except to the extent that the record is exempt from this chapter [~~pursuant to~~] in
268 accordance with Section 63G-2-106, records related to an emergency plan or program, a
269 copy of which is provided to or prepared or maintained by the Division of Emergency
270 Management, and the disclosure of which would jeopardize:
- 271 (a) the safety of the general public; or
 - 272 (b) the security of:
 - 273 (i) governmental property;
 - 274 (ii) governmental programs; or
 - 275 (iii) the property of a private person who provides the Division of Emergency
276 Management information;
- 277 (49) records of the Department of Agriculture and Food that provides for the identification,
278 tracing, or control of livestock diseases, including any program established under Title
279 4, Chapter 24, Utah Livestock Brand and Anti-Theft Act, or Title 4, Chapter 31, Control
280 of Animal Disease;
- 281 (50) as provided in Section 26B-2-709:
- 282 (a) information or records held by the Department of Health and Human Services related
283 to a complaint regarding a provider, program, or facility which the department is
284 unable to substantiate; and
 - 285 (b) information or records related to a complaint received by the Department of Health
286 and Human Services from an anonymous complainant regarding a provider, program,
287 or facility;
- 288 (51) unless otherwise classified as public under Section 63G-2-301 and except as provided
289 under Section 41-1a-116, an individual's home address, home telephone number, or
290 personal mobile phone number, if:
- 291 (a) the individual is required to provide the information in order to comply with a law,
292 ordinance, rule, or order of a government entity; and
 - 293 (b) the subject of the record has a reasonable expectation that this information will be
294 kept confidential due to:
 - 295 (i) the nature of the law, ordinance, rule, or order; and
 - 296 (ii) the individual complying with the law, ordinance, rule, or order;
- 297 (52) the portion of the following documents that contains a candidate's residential or
298 mailing address, if the candidate provides to the filing officer another address or phone
299 number where the candidate may be contacted:
- 300 (a) a declaration of candidacy, a nomination petition, or a certificate of nomination,

- 301 described in Section 20A-9-201, 20A-9-202, 20A-9-203, 20A-9-404, 20A-9-405,
302 20A-9-408, 20A-9-408.5, 20A-9-502, or 20A-9-601;
- 303 (b) an affidavit of impecuniosity, described in Section 20A-9-201; or
- 304 (c) a notice of intent to gather signatures for candidacy, described in Section 20A-9-408;
- 305 (53) the name, home address, work addresses, and telephone numbers of an individual that
306 is engaged in, or that provides goods or services for, medical or scientific research that is:
- 307 (a) conducted within the state system of higher education, as described in Section
308 53H-1-102; and
- 309 (b) conducted using animals;
- 310 (54) in accordance with Section 78A-12-203, any record of the Judicial Performance
311 Evaluation Commission concerning an individual commissioner's vote, in relation to
312 whether a judge meets or exceeds minimum performance standards under Subsection
313 78A-12-203(4), and information disclosed under Subsection 78A-12-203(5)(e);
- 314 (55) information collected and a report prepared by the Judicial Performance Evaluation
315 Commission concerning a judge, unless Section 20A-7-702 or Title 78A, Chapter 12,
316 Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission Act, requires disclosure of, or makes
317 public, the information or report;
- 318 (56) records provided or received by the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office in
319 furtherance of any contract or other agreement made in accordance with Section
320 63L-11-202;
- 321 (57) information requested by and provided to the 911 Division under Section 63H-7a-302;
- 322 (58) in accordance with Section 73-10-33:
- 323 (a) a management plan for a water conveyance facility in the possession of the Division
324 of Water Resources or the Board of Water Resources; or
- 325 (b) an outline of an emergency response plan in possession of the state or a county or
326 municipality;
- 327 (59) the following records in the custody or control of the Office of Inspector General of
328 Medicaid Services, created in Section 63A-13-201:
- 329 (a) records that would disclose information relating to allegations of personal
330 misconduct, gross mismanagement, or illegal activity of a person if the information
331 or allegation cannot be corroborated by the Office of Inspector General of Medicaid
332 Services through other documents or evidence, and the records relating to the
333 allegation are not relied upon by the Office of Inspector General of Medicaid
334 Services in preparing a final investigation report or final audit report;

- 335 (b) records and audit workpapers to the extent they would disclose the identity of a
336 person who, during the course of an investigation or audit, communicated the
337 existence of any Medicaid fraud, waste, or abuse, or a violation or suspected
338 violation of a law, rule, or regulation adopted under the laws of this state, a political
339 subdivision of the state, or any recognized entity of the United States, if the
340 information was disclosed on the condition that the identity of the person be
341 protected;
- 342 (c) before the time that an investigation or audit is completed and the final investigation
343 or final audit report is released, records or drafts circulated to a person who is not an
344 employee or head of a governmental entity for the person's response or information;
- 345 (d) records that would disclose an outline or part of any investigation, audit survey plan,
346 or audit program; or
- 347 (e) requests for an investigation or audit, if disclosure would risk circumvention of an
348 investigation or audit;
- 349 (60) records that reveal methods used by the Office of Inspector General of Medicaid
350 Services, the fraud unit, or the Department of Health and Human Services, to discover
351 Medicaid fraud, waste, or abuse;
- 352 (61) information provided to the Department of Health and Human Services or the Division
353 of Professional Licensing under Subsections 58-67-304(3) and (4) and Subsections
354 58-68-304(3) and (4);
- 355 (62) a record described in Section 63G-12-210;
- 356 (63) captured plate data that is obtained through an automatic license plate reader system
357 used by a governmental entity as authorized in Section 41-6a-2003;
- 358 (64) an audio or video recording created by a body-worn camera, as that term is defined in
359 Section 77-7a-103, that records sound or images inside a hospital or health care facility
360 as those terms are defined in Section 78B-3-403, inside a clinic of a health care provider,
361 as that term is defined in Section 78B-3-403, or inside a human service program as that
362 term is defined in Section 26B-2-101, except for recordings that:
- 363 (a) depict the commission of an alleged crime;
- 364 (b) record any encounter between a law enforcement officer and a person that results in
365 death or bodily injury, or includes an instance when an officer fires a weapon;
- 366 (c) record any encounter that is the subject of a complaint or a legal proceeding against a
367 law enforcement officer or law enforcement agency;
- 368 (d) contain an officer involved critical incident as defined in Subsection 76-2-408(1)(f);

- 369 or
- 370 (e) have been requested for reclassification as a public record by a subject or authorized
- 371 agent of a subject featured in the recording;
- 372 (65) a record pertaining to the search process for a president of an institution of higher
- 373 education described in Section 53H-3-302;
- 374 (66) an audio recording that is:
- 375 (a) produced by an audio recording device that is used in conjunction with a device or
- 376 piece of equipment designed or intended for resuscitating an individual or for treating
- 377 an individual with a life-threatening condition;
- 378 (b) produced during an emergency event when an individual employed to provide law
- 379 enforcement, fire protection, paramedic, emergency medical, or other first responder
- 380 service:
- 381 (i) is responding to an individual needing resuscitation or with a life-threatening
- 382 condition; and
- 383 (ii) uses a device or piece of equipment designed or intended for resuscitating an
- 384 individual or for treating an individual with a life-threatening condition; and
- 385 (c) intended and used for purposes of training emergency responders how to improve
- 386 their response to an emergency situation;
- 387 (67) records submitted by or prepared in relation to an applicant seeking a recommendation
- 388 by the Research and General Counsel Subcommittee, the Budget Subcommittee, or the
- 389 Legislative Audit Subcommittee, established under Section 36-12-8, for an employment
- 390 position with the Legislature;
- 391 (68) work papers as defined in Section 31A-2-204;
- 392 (69) a record made available to Adult Protective Services or a law enforcement agency
- 393 under Section 61-1-206;
- 394 (70) a record submitted to the Insurance Department in accordance with Section
- 395 31A-37-201;
- 396 (71) a record described in Section 31A-37-503;
- 397 (72) any record created by the Division of Professional Licensing as a result of Subsection
- 398 58-37f-304(5) or 58-37f-702(2)(a)(ii);
- 399 (73) a record described in Section 72-16-306 that relates to the reporting of an injury
- 400 involving an amusement ride;
- 401 (74) except as provided in Subsection 63G-2-305.5(1), the signature of an individual on a
- 402 political petition, or on a request to withdraw a signature from a political petition,

- 403 including a petition or request described in the following titles:
- 404 (a) Title 10, Utah Municipal Code;
- 405 (b) Title 17, Counties;
- 406 (c) Title 17B, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Special Districts;
- 407 (d) Title 17D, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Other Entities; and
- 408 (e) Title 20A, Election Code;
- 409 (75) except as provided in Subsection 63G-2-305.5(2), the signature of an individual in a
- 410 voter registration record;
- 411 (76) except as provided in Subsection 63G-2-305.5(3), any signature, other than a signature
- 412 described in Subsection (74) or (75), in the custody of the lieutenant governor or a local
- 413 political subdivision collected or held under, or in relation to, Title 20A, Election Code;
- 414 (77) a Form I-918 Supplement B certification as described in Title 77, Chapter 38, Part 5,
- 415 Victims Guidelines for Prosecutors Act;
- 416 (78) a record submitted to the Insurance Department under Section 31A-48-103;
- 417 (79) personal information, as defined in Section 63G-26-102, to the extent disclosure is
- 418 prohibited under Section 63G-26-103;
- 419 (80) an image taken of an individual during the process of booking the individual into jail,
- 420 unless:
- 421 (a) the individual is convicted of a criminal offense based upon the conduct for which
- 422 the individual was incarcerated at the time the image was taken;
- 423 (b) a law enforcement agency releases or disseminates the image:
- 424 (i) after determining that the individual is a fugitive or an imminent threat to an
- 425 individual or to public safety and releasing or disseminating the image will assist
- 426 in apprehending the individual or reducing or eliminating the threat; or
- 427 (ii) to a potential witness or other individual with direct knowledge of events relevant
- 428 to a criminal investigation or criminal proceeding for the purpose of identifying or
- 429 locating an individual in connection with the criminal investigation or criminal
- 430 proceeding;
- 431 (c) a judge orders the release or dissemination of the image based on a finding that the
- 432 release or dissemination is in furtherance of a legitimate law enforcement interest; or
- 433 (d) the image is displayed to a person who is permitted to view the image under Section
- 434 17-72-802;
- 435 (81) a record:
- 436 (a) concerning an interstate claim to the use of waters in the Colorado River system;

- 437 (b) relating to a judicial proceeding, administrative proceeding, or negotiation with a
438 representative from another state or the federal government as provided in Section
439 63M-14-205; and
- 440 (c) the disclosure of which would:
- 441 (i) reveal a legal strategy relating to the state's claim to the use of the water in the
442 Colorado River system;
- 443 (ii) harm the ability of the Colorado River Authority of Utah or river commissioner to
444 negotiate the best terms and conditions regarding the use of water in the Colorado
445 River system; or
- 446 (iii) give an advantage to another state or to the federal government in negotiations
447 regarding the use of water in the Colorado River system;
- 448 (82) any part of an application described in Section 63N-16-201 that the Governor's Office
449 of Economic Opportunity determines is nonpublic, confidential information that if
450 disclosed would result in actual economic harm to the applicant, but this Subsection (82)
451 may not be used to restrict access to a record evidencing a final contract or approval
452 decision;
- 453 (83) the following records of a drinking water or wastewater facility:
- 454 (a) an engineering or architectural drawing of the drinking water or wastewater facility;
455 and
- 456 (b) except as provided in Section 63G-2-106, a record detailing tools or processes the
457 drinking water or wastewater facility uses to secure, or prohibit access to, the records
458 described in Subsection (83)(a);
- 459 (84) a statement that an employee of a governmental entity provides to the governmental
460 entity as part of the governmental entity's personnel or administrative investigation into
461 potential misconduct involving the employee if the governmental entity:
- 462 (a) requires the statement under threat of employment disciplinary action, including
463 possible termination of employment, for the employee's refusal to provide the
464 statement; and
- 465 (b) provides the employee assurance that the statement cannot be used against the
466 employee in any criminal proceeding;
- 467 (85) any part of an application for a Utah Fits All Scholarship account described in Section
468 53F-6-402 or other information identifying a scholarship student as defined in Section
469 53F-6-401;
- 470 (86) a record:

- 471 (a) concerning a claim to the use of waters in the Great Salt Lake;
- 472 (b) relating to a judicial proceeding, administrative proceeding, or negotiation with a
- 473 person concerning the claim, including a representative from another state or the
- 474 federal government; and
- 475 (c) the disclosure of which would:
- 476 (i) reveal a legal strategy relating to the state's claim to the use of the water in the
- 477 Great Salt Lake;
- 478 (ii) harm the ability of the Great Salt Lake commissioner to negotiate the best terms
- 479 and conditions regarding the use of water in the Great Salt Lake; or
- 480 (iii) give an advantage to another person including another state or to the federal
- 481 government in negotiations regarding the use of water in the Great Salt Lake;
- 482 (87) a consumer complaint described in Section 13-2-11, unless the consumer complaint is
- 483 reclassified as public as described in Subsection 13-2-11(4);
- 484 (88) a record of the Utah water agent, appointed under Section 73-10g-702:
- 485 (a) concerning a claim to the use of waters;
- 486 (b) relating to a judicial proceeding, administrative proceeding, or negotiation with a
- 487 representative from another state, a tribe, the federal government, or other
- 488 government entity as provided in Title 73, Chapter 10g, Part 7, Utah Water Agent;
- 489 and
- 490 (c) the disclosure of which would:
- 491 (i) reveal a legal strategy relating to the state's claim to the use of the water;
- 492 (ii) harm the ability of the Utah water agent to negotiate the best terms and conditions
- 493 regarding the use of water; or
- 494 (iii) give an advantage to another state, a tribe, the federal government, or other
- 495 government entity in negotiations regarding the use of water; [~~and~~]
- 496 (89) a record created or maintained for an investigation of the Prosecutor Conduct
- 497 Commission, created in Section 63M-7-1102, that contains any personal identifying
- 498 information of a prosecuting attorney, including:
- 499 (a) a complaint, or a document that is submitted or created for a complaint, received by
- 500 the Prosecutor Conduct Commission; or
- 501 (b) a finding by the Prosecutor Conduct Commission[~~;~~] ; and
- 502 (90) a record created, submitted, or maintained for an investigation by the Judicial Conduct
- 503 Commission, created in Section 78A-11-101.
- 504 Section 2. Section **77-2-10** is enacted to read:

505 **77-2-10 . Prosecution of a judge.**506 (1) As used in this section:507 (a) "Complaint" means the same as that term is defined in Section 78A-11-102.508 (b) "Judge" means the same as that term is defined in Section 78A-11-102.509 (2) A prosecuting attorney who files an information or indictment against an individual who
510 is a judge shall immediately file a complaint against the judge with the Judicial Conduct
511 Commission created in Section 78A-11-101.512 Section 3. Section **78A-11-106** is amended to read:513 **78A-11-106 . Criminal investigation of a judge -- Administrative leave.**514 (1)(a)(~~+~~) ~~H]~~ Except as provided in Subsection (5), if the commission, during the515 course of [its] the commission's investigation into an allegation of judicial516 misconduct, receives information upon which a reasonable [person] individual517 might conclude that a misdemeanor or felony under state or federal law has been518 committed by a judge other than the chief justice of the Supreme Court, the519 commission shall immediately refer the allegation and any information relevant to520 the potential criminal violation to the chief justice of the Supreme Court.521 (b)(~~ii~~) (i)(~~A~~) ~~Unless]~~ Except as provided in Subsection (5) and unless the522 allegation is plainly frivolous, the commission shall also immediately refer the523 allegation of criminal misconduct and any information relevant to the potential524 criminal violation to the local prosecuting attorney having jurisdiction to525 investigate and prosecute the crime.526 (~~B~~) (ii) If the local prosecuting attorney receiving the allegation of criminal527 misconduct of a judge practices before that judge on a regular basis, or has a528 conflict of interest in investigating the crime, the local prosecuting attorney shall529 refer the allegation of criminal misconduct to another local or state prosecutor530 who would not have the same disability or conflict.531 (~~C~~) (iii) The commission may [~~concurrently~~] proceed [with its investigation of] to532 investigate the complaint without waiting for the resolution of the criminal533 investigation by the prosecuting attorney.534 (~~b~~) (c) The chief justice of the Supreme Court may place a judge on administrative535 leave with or without pay if the chief justice has a reasonable basis to believe that the536 alleged crime occurred, that the judge committed the crime, and that the crime was537 either a felony or a misdemeanor which conduct may be prejudicial to the538 administration of justice or which brings a judicial office into disrepute.

539 (d) If the chief justice of the Supreme Court places a judge on administrative leave under
540 Subsection (1)(c) without having received a referral from the commission as
541 described in Subsection (1)(a), the Administrative Office of the Courts shall
542 immediately file a complaint against the judge with the commission.

543 (2)(a) [H] Except as provided in Subsection (5), if the commission, during the course of [
544 its] the commission's investigation into an allegation of judicial misconduct, receives
545 information upon which a reasonable [person] individual might conclude that a
546 misdemeanor or felony under state or federal law has been committed by the chief
547 justice of the Supreme Court, the commission shall immediately refer the allegation
548 and any information relevant to the potential criminal violation to two justices of the
549 Supreme Court and the local prosecuting attorney in accordance with Subsection [
550 (1)(a)(ii)] (1)(b)(i).

551 (b) Two justices of the Supreme Court may place the chief justice of the Supreme Court
552 on administrative leave with or without pay if the two justices have a reasonable
553 basis to believe that the alleged crime occurred, that the chief justice committed the
554 crime, and that the crime was either a felony or a misdemeanor which conduct may
555 be prejudicial to the administration of justice or which brings a judicial office into
556 disrepute.

557 (c) If two justices of the Supreme Court place the chief justice of the Supreme Court on
558 administrative leave under Subsection (2)(b) without having received a referral from
559 the commission as described in Subsection (2)(a), the Administrative Office of the
560 Courts shall immediately file a complaint against the chief justice with the
561 commission.

562 (3)(a) If a judge is or has been criminally charged or indicted for a class A misdemeanor
563 or any felony under state or federal law and if the Supreme Court has not already
564 acted under Subsection (1) or (2), the appropriate member or members of the
565 Supreme Court as provided in Subsection (1) or (2), shall place the judge on
566 administrative leave with or without pay pending the outcome of the criminal
567 proceeding.

568 (b) The state court administrator shall, for the duration of the administrative leave,
569 withhold all employer and employee contributions required under Sections 49-17-301
570 and 49-18-301.

571 (c) If the judge is not convicted of the criminal charge, and if after an investigation and
572 final disposition of the case by the Judicial Conduct Commission, the judge is

573 reinstated by the Supreme Court as provided in Subsection (4), then the judge shall
 574 be paid the salary or compensation for the period of administrative leave, and all
 575 contributions withheld under Subsection (3)(b) shall be deposited in accordance with
 576 Sections 49-17-301 and 49-18-301.

577 (4) The chief justice of the Supreme Court or two justices of the Supreme Court who
 578 ordered the judge on administrative leave shall order the reinstatement of the judge:

579 (a) if the prosecutor to whom the allegations are referred by the commission determines
 580 no charge or indictment should be filed; or

581 (b) after final disposition of the criminal case, if the judge is not convicted of a criminal
 582 charge and if the commission has not ordered the removal of the judge.

583 (5) The commission is not required to refer an allegation of criminal misconduct to:

584 (a) the chief justice of the Supreme Court as described in Subsection (1)(a) if the
 585 Administrative Office of the Courts filed the complaint giving rise to the allegation as
 586 described in Subsection (1)(d);

587 (b) two justices of the Supreme Court as described in Subsection (2)(a) if the
 588 Administrative Office of the Courts filed the complaint giving rise to the allegation as
 589 described in Subsection (2)(c); or

590 (c) a prosecuting attorney as described in Subsection (1)(b) or (2)(a) if a prosecuting
 591 attorney filed the complaint giving rise to the allegation as described in Section
 592 77-2-10.

593 Section 4. Section **78A-11-114** is enacted to read:

594 **78A-11-114 . Annual reporting requirement to Legislature.**

595 (1) Before November 1 of each year, the commission shall report to the Judiciary Interim
 596 Committee on the following matters from the previous fiscal year:

597 (a) the number of complaints received;

598 (b) the number of complaints resolved;

599 (c) a brief description of each of the commission's informal resolutions;

600 (d) a brief description of each final order issued by the Supreme Court under Subsection
 601 78A-11-105(1); and

602 (e) the publication of an annual report of commission activities.

603 (2) The commission may not include any personal identifying information regarding a
 604 judge in a report described in Subsection (1), except for information that is available in a
 605 final order issued by the Supreme Court under Subsection 78A-11-105(1).

606 Section 5. **Effective Date.**

607 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.