

John Arthur proposes the following substitute bill:

**Landscaper Certification Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: John Arthur**

Senate Sponsor:

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends provisions relating to landscape work.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- requires that the Division of Professional Licensing identify a specialty contractor that may engage in landscape work;
- provides continuing education requirements for a licensee that engages in landscape work; and
- makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**58-55-302.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 201

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

Section 1. Section **58-55-302.5** is amended to read:

**58-55-302.5 . Continuing education requirements for contractor licensees --**

**Continuing education courses.**

(1)(a) [Each] A contractor licensee under a license issued under this chapter shall complete six hours of approved continuing education during each two-year renewal cycle established by rule under Subsection 58-55-303(1).

(b) [Each] A contractor licensee who has a renewal cycle that ends on or after January 1, 2020, may complete one hour of approved continuing education on energy

- 30 conservation as part of the six required hours.
- 31 (2)(a) The commission shall, with the concurrence of the division, establish by rule  
32 made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,  
33 a program of approved continuing education for contractor licensees.
- 34 (b) Except as provided in Subsections (2)(c) and (e), only courses offered by any of the  
35 following may be included in the program of approved continuing education for  
36 contractor licensees:
- 37 (i) the Associated General Contractors of Utah;
  - 38 (ii) Associated Builders and Contractors, Utah Chapter;
  - 39 (iii) the Utah Home Builders Association;
  - 40 (iv) the National Electrical Contractors Association Intermountain Chapter;
  - 41 (v) the Utah Plumbing & Heating Contractors Association;
  - 42 (vi) the Independent Electrical Contractors of Utah;
  - 43 (vii) the Rocky Mountain Gas Association;
  - 44 (viii) the Utah Mechanical Contractors Association;
  - 45 (ix) the Sheet Metal Contractors Association;
  - 46 (x) the Intermountain Electrical Association;
  - 47 (xi) the American Subcontractors Association, Utah Chapter; or
  - 48 (xii) Utah Roofing Contractors Association.
- 49 (c) An approved continuing education program for a contractor licensee may include a  
50 course approved by an entity described in Subsections (2)(b)(i) through (2)(b)(iii).
- 51 (d)(i) Except as provided in Subsections (2)(d)(ii) and (iii), an entity listed in  
52 Subsections (2)(b)(iv) through (2)(b)(xii) may only offer and market continuing  
53 education courses to a licensee who is a member of the entity.
- 54 (ii) An entity described in Subsection (2)(b)(iv), (vi), or (x) may offer and market a  
55 continuing education course that the entity offers to satisfy the continuing  
56 education requirement described in Subsection 58-55-302.7(2)(a) to a contractor  
57 in the electrical trade.
  - 58 (iii) An entity described in Subsection (2)(b)(v) or (viii) may offer and market a  
59 continuing education course that the entity offers to satisfy:
    - 60 (A) the continuing education requirement described in Subsection  
61 58-55-302.7(2)(b) to a contractor in the plumbing trade; or
    - 62 (B) the continuing education requirement described in Subsection (1) for a  
63 contractor licensee that is licensed in the specialty contractor classification of

- 64 HVAC contractor.
- 65 (e) An approved continuing education program for a contractor licensee may include a  
66 course offered and taught by:
- 67 (i) a state executive branch agency;
- 68 (ii) the workers' compensation insurance carrier that provides workers' compensation  
69 insurance under Section 31A-22-1001; or
- 70 (iii) a nationally or regionally accredited college or university that has a physical  
71 campus in the state.
- 72 (f) For a contractor licensee that is licensed in the specialty contractor classification of  
73 HVAC contractor, at least three of the six hours described in Subsection (1) shall  
74 include continuing education directly related to the installation, repair, or  
75 replacement of a heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system.
- 76 (3)(a) ~~The division shall identify a specialty contractor~~ ~~Ĥ~~ → ~~[under this section that may]~~ ← ~~Ĥ~~  
77 ~~Ĥ~~ → engage that primarily engages ← ~~Ĥ~~ in landscape work.
- 78 (b) During each two-year renewal cycle, at least one of the six hours of continuing  
79 education described in Subsection (1) that a specialty contractor described in  
80 Subsection (3)(a) completes shall cover the following topics:
- 81 (i) water conservation landscaping principles, including:
- 82 (A) understanding water scarcity in this state;
- 83 (B) selecting drought tolerant plants that are native to this state;
- 84 (C) efficient irrigation design; and
- 85 (D) soil amendment techniques for soil retention; or
- 86 (ii) fire risk management landscaping principles, including:
- 87 (A) designing a landscape to prevent the spread of fire; and
- 88 (B) incorporating rocks, concrete, and other materials to prevent the spread of fire.
- 89 [(3)] (4) The division may contract with a person to establish and maintain a continuing  
90 education registry to include:
- 91 (a) a list of courses that the division has approved for inclusion in the program of  
92 approved continuing education; and
- 93 (b) a list of courses that:
- 94 (i) a contractor licensee has completed under the program of approved continuing  
95 education; and
- 96 (ii) the licensee may access to monitor the licensee's compliance with the continuing  
97 education requirement established under Subsection (1).

98        [~~4~~] (5) The division may charge a fee, as established by the division under Section  
99            63J-1-504, to administer the requirements of this section.

100            Section 2. **Effective Date.**

101        This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.