

Evan J. Vickers proposes the following substitute bill:

Healthcare Providers Scope of Practice Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers

House Sponsor: James A. Dunnigan

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions relating to the Office of Professional Licensure Review.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- requires that the Office of Professional Licensure Review (office) conduct a scope of practice review (review);
- provides how a requestor may request a review;
- requires that the office make a determination as to whether the office will conduct a review;
- requires that, when conducting a review, the office convene a group to consult on the review;
- provides which individuals the office shall include in a group to consult on the review;
- requires that the office determine whether to provide a recommendation that a regulated healthcare occupation incorporate an innovation into the regulated healthcare occupation's practice;
- requires that the office create a report that details the office's recommendation following a review;
- requires that the office provide the report to the Business and Labor Interim Committee;
- requires that the office create a final report after incorporating any changes from the Business and Labor Interim Committee;
- provides the criteria the office shall consider when conducting a review; and
- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

29 **Other Special Clauses:**

30 None

31 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

32 AMENDS:

33 **13-1b-203 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/34)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah
34 2025, Chapter 483

35 **13-1b-304 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/34)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah
36 2025, Chapter 483

37 ENACTS:

38 **13-1b-401 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

39 **13-1b-402 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

40 **13-1b-403 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

43 Section 1. Section **13-1b-203** is amended to read:

44 **13-1b-203 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/34). Duties.**

45 The office shall:

- 46 (1) for each application submitted in accordance with Section 13-1b-301, conduct a sunrise
- 47 review in accordance with Section 13-1b-302 before November 1:
- 48 (a) of the year in which the application is submitted, if the application is submitted on or
- 49 before July 1; or
- 50 (b) of the subsequent year, if the application is submitted after July 1;
- 51 (2) in accordance with Section 13-1b-303, conduct a review of each regulated occupation at
- 52 least once every 10 years;
- 53 (3) review and respond to ~~[any]~~ a legislator inquiry regarding a proposed or existing
- 54 regulated occupation;
- 55 (4) publish on the office's website a submission form where an individual may provide
- 56 feedback regarding an existing occupational regulation within the office's jurisdiction
- 57 that the individual requests the office repeal or modify;
- 58 (5) engage in a systematic review of the rules that relate to occupational regulations within
- 59 the office's jurisdiction in accordance with Section 13-1b-302;~~[-and]~~
- 60 (6) report to the Business and Labor Interim Committee in accordance with Section
- 61 13-1b-304~~[-]~~ ; and
- 62 (7) conduct a scope of practice review in accordance with Part 4, Scope of Practice Review.

63 Section 2. Section **13-1b-304** is amended to read:

64 **13-1b-304 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/34). Reporting.**

- 65 (1) On or before October 1, the office shall annually prepare and submit a written report to
66 the Business and Labor Interim Committee that describes the office's work during the
67 prior year.
- 68 (2) In a written report described in Subsection (1), the office shall include:
- 69 (a) a summary of each periodic review, each sunrise review, each rule review, and each
70 response to a legislator inquiry;
- 71 (b) each recommendation the office made to another state executive branch agency
72 regarding a regulated occupation;~~and~~
- 73 (c) a summary of information received during the previous year by the office under
74 Subsection 13-1b-203(4) including:
- 75 (i) the total number of submissions the office receives;
- 76 (ii) each rule for which an individual filed a submission[-] ;
- 77 (d) each request for a scope of practice review that the office receives in accordance with
78 Section 13-1b-403; and
- 79 (e) each scope of practice review the office completes in accordance with Section
80 13-1b-403.

81 Section 3. Section **13-1b-401** is enacted to read:

82 **Part 4. Scope of Practice Review**

83 **13-1b-401 (Effective 05/06/26). Definitions.**

84 As used in this part:

- 85 (1) "Healthcare practitioner" means an individual licensed in a regulated healthcare
86 occupation.
- 87 (2)(a) "Innovation" means an upgrade in technology that the office determines has the
88 potential to augment the ability of a healthcare practitioner to provide a patient:
- 89 (i) better access to healthcare;
- 90 (ii) better health outcomes; or
- 91 (iii) lower healthcare costs.
- 92 (b) "Innovation" does not include an upgrade in technology that solely functions to
93 provide advice or treatment to a patient without an interaction between a healthcare
94 practitioner and patient.
- 95 (3) "Regulated healthcare occupation" means a regulated occupation where licensees of the
96 regulated occupation are primarily engaged in healthcare.

- 97 (4) "Requestor" means:
98 (a) a legislator; or
99 (b) a representative of:
100 (i) an entity that employs healthcare practitioners;
101 (ii) an institution of higher education that provides training to prospective and current
102 healthcare practitioners; or
103 (iii) a professional group of healthcare practitioners.
- 104 (5) "Scope of practice review" means a review that the office conducts to determine
105 whether to recommend that a regulated healthcare occupation should incorporate an
106 innovation into the regulated healthcare occupation's practice in a way that would
107 expand the scope of the regulated healthcare occupation's license.
- 108 (6) "Upgrade in technology" means an addition or change to:
109 (a) a medical apparatus;
110 (b) a medical appliance;
111 (c) artificial intelligence;
112 (d) a medical device;
113 (e) medical equipment;
114 (f) a medical implant;
115 (g) a medical implement;
116 (h) a medical tool; or
117 (i) any other technology the office determines has the potential for a healthcare
118 practitioner to use in the healthcare practitioner's practice.

119 Section 4. Section **13-1b-402** is enacted to read:

120 **13-1b-402 (Effective 05/06/26). Scope of practice review -- Process.**

- 121 (1) A requestor may request a scope of practice review by submitting a request for scope of
122 practice review in a form the office approves.
- 123 (2)(a) Upon receipt of a request for scope of practice review, the office shall:
124 (i) make a determination as to whether the office will conduct a scope of practice
125 review; and
126 (ii) notify the chairs of the Business and Labor Interim Committee of the request for
127 scope of practice review.
- 128 (b) After making a determination described in Subsection (2)(a)(i), the office shall:
129 (i) if the office declines to conduct a scope of practice review, provide the requestor
130 with a reason for the denial; or

- 131 (ii) if the office intends to conduct a scope of practice review:
- 132 (A) inform the requestor that the office will conduct a scope of practice review;
- 133 and
- 134 (B) conduct a scope of practice review in accordance with Subsection (3).
- 135 (3)(a) When conducting a scope of practice review, the office shall convene a group of
- 136 individuals to advise on the impact of the expansion of the scope of review.
- 137 (b) When selecting the individuals for the group described in Subsection (3)(a), the
- 138 office:
- 139 (i) in consultation with the applicable board appointed in accordance with Section
- 140 58-1-201, shall select at least ~~5~~ :
- 140a (A) ~~[two individuals]~~ **one individual that the applicable board approves** ~~←5~~
- 140b from ~~5~~ ~~[each]~~ ~~the~~ ~~←5~~ regulated occupation that
- 141 the proposed expansion of scope will affect; and
- 141a ~~5~~ (B) **one other individual from the regulated occupation that the**
- 141b **proposed expansion of scope will affect; and** ~~←5~~
- 142 (ii) may select one or more of the following individuals:
- 143 (A) a representative of an entity that employs healthcare practitioners; ~~5~~ ~~[-and]~~ ~~←5~~
- 144 (B) a representative of an institution of higher education that provides training to
- 145 prospective and current healthcare practitioners ~~5~~ ~~[;]~~ ; and
- 145a (C) **an individual with technical expertise relevant to the scope of practice**
- 145b **review.** ~~←5~~
- 146 (c) In consultation with the group described in Subsection (3)(a), the office shall:
- 147 (i) consider the criteria described in Section 13-1b-403; and
- 148 (ii) determine whether to provide a recommendation that a regulated healthcare
- 149 occupation incorporate an innovation into the regulated healthcare occupation's
- 150 practice.
- 151 (4) If the office determines that a regulated healthcare occupation should incorporate an
- 152 innovation into the regulated healthcare occupation's practice, the office shall create a
- 153 preliminary report to present to the Business and Labor Interim Committee that:
- 154 (a) recommends how the regulated healthcare occupation may incorporate the
- 155 innovation into the regulated healthcare occupation's scope of practice; and
- 156 (b) describes how incorporating the innovation expands the regulated healthcare
- 157 occupation's scope of practice.

- 158 (5) The office shall provide the preliminary report described in Subsection (4) to the
 159 Business and Labor Interim Committee in accordance with Section 13-1b-304.
- 160 (6) Upon receiving the preliminary report under Subsection (5), the Business and Labor
 161 Interim Committee may:
- 162 (a) recommend draft legislation to address the preliminary report described in
 163 Subsection (4);
- 164 (b) recommend that the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing make rules
 165 in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act; or
- 166 (c) ~~§~~ **take** ~~←§~~ any other action that the Business and Labor Interim Committee deems
 166a appropriate.
- 167 (7) After presenting the preliminary report, the office shall create and publish a final report
 168 based on the preliminary report and any recommendations provided by the Business and
 169 Labor Interim Committee.

170 Section 5. Section **13-1b-403** is enacted to read:

171 **13-1b-403 (Effective 05/06/26). Scope of practice review -- Criteria.**

172 When conducting a scope of practice review in accordance with Subsection 13-1b-203(7)
 173 and Section 13-1b-402, the office shall consider the following criteria:

- 174 (1) the strength of evidence, data, or information indicating the innovation will provide:
- 175 (a) safer or more effective healthcare;
- 176 (b) more accessible healthcare; or
- 177 (c) more affordable healthcare;
- 178 (2) the potential of the innovation to improve the following:
- 179 (a) the safety or efficacy of healthcare;
- 180 (b) healthcare accessibility; or
- 181 (c) healthcare affordability;
- 182 (3) the probability, severity, and permanence of any risk an innovation poses to a patient;
- 183 (4) the level of interest from employers, healthcare practitioners, and educators to test or
 184 adopt the innovation;
- 185 (5) the availability of adequate training or education for healthcare practitioners to learn
 186 about the innovation;
- 187 (6) the degree to which other jurisdictions adopt or use the innovation; and
- 188 (7) any other criteria that the office adopts by rule that the office makes in accordance with
 189 Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

190 Section 6. **Effective Date.**

191 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.