

Todd Weiler proposes the following substitute bill:

**Protection and Advocacy Agency Reporting**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Todd Weiler**

House Sponsor: Norman K Thurston

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill addresses Utah's state protection and advocacy agency.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- clarifies the responsibilities of the state protection and advocacy agency;
- requires the state protection and advocacy agency to report; and
- defines terms.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**26B-6-901**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**26B-6-902**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **26B-6-901** is enacted to read:

**Part 9. Utah Protection and Advocacy Agency**

**26B-6-901 . Definitions.**

As used in this part:

(1) "Appropriate for the need of the individual" means the services, treatment, and medications recommended by the disabled individual's physical health or mental health provider.

(2) "Disabled individual" means a person with a disability, as defined in the Americans

29 with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. Sec.12102.

30 (3) "State protection and advocacy agency" means an entity designated by the governor as  
 31 the protection and advocacy agency for disabled individuals in this state.

32 Section 2. Section **26B-6-902** is enacted to read:

33 **26B-6-902 . State protection and advocacy agency.**

34 (1) The state protection and advocacy agency should:

35 (a) represent and advocate for the interests of all disabled individuals in the state;

36 (b) annually hold at least three meetings with the public throughout the state to:

37 (i) understand the needs in the local community; and

38 (ii) provide education, advocacy, and resources to disabled individuals in the local  
 39 community; and

40 (c) provide a written report annually to the Judiciary Interim Committee and Health and  
 41 Human Services Interim Committee on or before August 31.

42 (2) The report described in Subsection (1)(c) may include:

43 (a) the number and location of public meetings;

44 (b) the number and description of the types of services and advocacy provided, including  
 45 the number and description of advocacy incidents that:

46 (i) advocated for a more-integrated or less-integrated setting or care, according to the  
 47 appropriate need of the individual;

48 (ii) advocated for a greater level or lesser level of treatment, including medication  
 49 treatment, according to the appropriate need of the individual; and

50 (iii) advocated for a deviation from a treatment provider recommendation and the  
 51 reason;

52 (c) a list of the government entities that the state protection and advocacy agency  
 53 worked with;

54 (d) the number of individuals served that:

55 (i) are not capable of living independently;

56 (ii) can live somewhat independently, with formal supports;

57 (iii) live independently; and

58 (iv) are a family member of a disabled individual; ~~and~~ → **and**

59 ~~(e) the number of individuals that the state protection and advocacy agency;~~

60 ~~[(i) referred to and received voluntary treatment;]~~

61 ~~[(ii) petitioned for and were ordered into involuntary treatment;]~~

62 ~~[(iii) exited from homelessness into a residential or clinical setting;]~~

63            ~~[(iv) was able to advocate for assisted outpatient treatment or assertive community]~~ ←<sup>§</sup>  
64                       <sup>§</sup>→ ~~[treatment that resulted in placement or acquisition of supportive housing; and]~~  
65            ~~[(v) advocated for with the goal of discontinuing any aspect of services or treatment]~~ ←<sup>§</sup>  
66                       <sup>§</sup>→ ~~[deemed to be appropriate for the need of the individual; and]~~  
67            ~~[(f)]~~ (e) ←<sup>§</sup> policy recommendations, if any.  
68            Section 3. **Effective Date.**  
69            This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.