

USBE Legislative Request Form

(Policy, Funding, & Efficiency / Reductions)

2027 General Session

SECTION 1: THE BOTTOM LINE

Request Title: Removal of the Underage Drinking and Substance Abuse Prevention Program Advisory Council from [Utah Code 53G-10-406\(4\)\(5\)](#)

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Director Reviewer: Shauntelle Cota

Nature of Request (Select all that apply):

☒ **Policy Change:** Creating, amending, or repealing Utah State Code.

☐ **New/Increased Funding:** Seeking new financial resources.

(Complete Section 3)

☒ **Efficiency / Reduction:** Proposing the elimination or reduction of a program, mandate, or funding stream. *(Complete Section 3 and/or 4)*

Purpose Statement (BLUF - Bottom Line Up Front):

We are requesting the removal of the Underage Drinking and Substance Abuse Prevention Program Advisory Council from Utah Code 53G-10-406(4)(5) to eliminate committee redundancies.

SECTION 2: THE BUSINESS CASE

(Required for all requests)

The Problem:

Utah Code Section 53G-10-406(4)(5) establishes the Underage Drinking and Substance Abuse Prevention Program Advisory Council but does not define the council's responsibilities. In practice, there has been limited need for the council to meet, as the primary topic of discussion has been the Request for Proposals (RFP) process used to select a program provider, which occurs only once every five years. More recently, the council was asked to discuss potential approaches for collecting implementation data from LEAs in a manner that would not create a significant reporting burden.

The advisory council is not needed for the day-to-day administration or implementation of the program and is managed by USBE staff.

If additional stakeholder input is needed, several existing statewide prevention groups are already positioned to provide expertise and recommendations, including the Youth Electronic Cigarette, Marijuana, and Other Drug Prevention Committee, the Prevention and Intervention Committee of the Behavioral Health Commission, and the Utah Prevention Network. These groups include representatives from state agencies, local prevention organizations, and prevention professionals and regularly discuss prevention-related issues affecting Utah youth.

Removing the advisory council requirement would reduce administrative burden, eliminate a redundant structure, and allow USBE to seek stakeholder input through existing committees when needed, while maintaining effective oversight and implementation of the program.

The Source:

Describe how this idea came to be, what is the support and opposition to this request, with who or what groups did this request originate from?

This request originated from USBE staff through the Program Self-Assessment process. USBE staff identified that the advisory council's purpose and responsibilities are not clearly defined in statute and that the council has played a limited role in the program. Meeting discussions have primarily focused on the RFP process, which occurs once every five years, and more recently on identifying ways to gather implementation data from LEAs without creating additional reporting burden.

USBE staff believe the council is not necessary for the day-to-day administration or implementation of the program and that stakeholder input can be obtained through existing statewide prevention groups when needed. At this time, the recommendation is being advanced by USBE staff to improve efficiency and eliminate a potentially redundant statutory requirement. USBE is not aware of any organized opposition to the proposal.

Projected Results:

Performance Metric 1: Reduction in administrative burden by eliminating the requirement to convene and staff the Underage Drinking and Substance Abuse Prevention Program Advisory Council.

Note: This proposal is primarily intended to improve administrative efficiency and eliminate a redundant statutory requirement. It is not expected to have a direct impact on student outcomes or program availability in schools. Existing program implementation and stakeholder input mechanisms would remain in place.

Consequence of Inaction:

If this request is not approved, the Underage Drinking and Substance Abuse

Prevention Program Advisory Council will remain in statute and USBE will continue to be responsible for convening and staffing the council. This will require ongoing staff time and administrative resources to support a council whose responsibilities are not clearly defined in statute and whose discussions have historically been limited.

The primary impact of not approving this request is the continuation of an administrative requirement that may duplicate existing stakeholder engagement structures without providing a clear operational benefit to the program or Utah's K-12 system.

Evidence & Data:

This recommendation is based on USBE's Program Self-Assessment review of the Underage Drinking and Substance Abuse Prevention Program. The review found that the advisory council's responsibilities are not clearly defined in Utah Code Section 53G-10-406 and that the council has played a limited role in program implementation and oversight. Historically, council discussions have primarily focused on the RFP process, which occurs once every five years, and more recently on identifying potential approaches to collecting implementation data from LEAs without increasing reporting burden.

This recommendation is based on program administration experience, statutory review, and organizational efficiency rather than a cost-benefit study, pilot program, or formal program evaluation.

SECTION 4: POLICY & STATUTE

Code Sections Affected:

[Utah Code Section 53G-10-406\(4\)\(5\)](#)

Suggested Legislative Solution:

Subsections 4 and 5 would need to be repealed:

(4) The state board shall administer the program with input from the advisory council.

(5) There is created the Underage Drinking and Substance Abuse Prevention Program Advisory Council comprised of the following members:

(a) the executive director of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services or the executive director's designee;

(b) the executive director of the Department of Health and Human Services or the executive director's designee;

(c) the director of the Office of Substance Use and Mental Health or the director's designee;

(d) the director of the Division of Child and Family Services or the director's designee;

(e) the director of the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services or the director's designee;

(f) the state superintendent or the state superintendent's designee; and

(g) two members of the state board, appointed by the chair of the state board.

Safeguards:

USB E does not anticipate any direct unintended consequences for specific geographic areas or student populations if this change is approved. The advisory council is not responsible for program implementation and those functions would continue unchanged under USB E administration.

Stakeholder input would continue to be available through existing statewide prevention groups, including the Youth Electronic Cigarette, Marijuana, and Other Drug Prevention Committee, the Prevention and Intervention Committee, and the Utah Prevention Network.

One potential risk is that opening the statute could create an opportunity for broader legislative changes to the program. However, USB E believes this risk is low given the continued statewide support for youth substance use prevention efforts.