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Dangerous Weapon Amendments
2026 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Walt Brooks
Senate Sponsor: Don L. Ipson

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses the carrying of dangerous weapons at an institution of higher education.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

▸ allows an individual 21 years old or older to conceal a dangerous weapon at an institution of higher education without a concealed carry permit;

▸ amends the offense of carrying a dangerous weapon at an institution of higher education by:

• renaming the offense to "Openly carrying a dangerous weapon at an institution of higher education";

• removing private institutions of higher education from locations where the offense is applicable; and

• prohibiting an individual, including an individual with any type of concealed carry permit, from openly carrying a dangerous weapon at an institution of higher education unless the individual is lawfully responding to an active threat;

▸ clarifies that an individual 18 years old or older but younger than 21 years old may carry, in an open manner, an unloaded firearm in any public location not prohibited by state statute or federal law;

▸ clarifies that an individual who has a concealed carry permit that allows the individual to carry on the grounds of an elementary school or secondary school may not open carry a dangerous weapon on the grounds of an elementary school or secondary school unless the individual is lawfully responding to an active threat; and

▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

28 None

29 **Other Special Clauses:**

30 None

31 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

32 AMENDS:

33 **53-5a-102.2**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 208

34 **53H-3-902**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session,
35 Chapter 8

36 **76-11-205**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapters 173, 208

37 **76-11-205.5**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 208

38

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

40 Section 1. Section **53-5a-102.2** is amended to read:

41 **53-5a-102.2 . Open and concealed carry of a firearm outside of an individual's**
42 **residence.**

43 (1) To effectuate the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and Utah
44 Constitution, Article I, Section 6, that prohibit the infringement of the right of the people
45 of Utah to keep and bear arms for security and defense of self, family, others, property,
46 or the state, as well as for other lawful purposes, and consistent with the Legislature's
47 ability to define the lawful use of arms:

48 (a) subject to Subsections (2)(a) and (b), an individual 18 years old or older but younger
49 than 21 years old without a provisional concealed carry permit issued under Section
50 53-5a-305 and who may otherwise lawfully possess firearms, may only carry in an
51 open manner:

52 (i) an unloaded rifle, shotgun, or muzzle-loading rifle in a vehicle in which the
53 individual is lawfully present;

54 (ii) an unloaded or loaded handgun in a vehicle in which the individual is lawfully
55 present; and

56 (iii) an unloaded firearm that the individual may otherwise lawfully carry[;] :

57 (A) [-]on a public street; or

58 (B) in any other public location not prohibited by, or in accordance with, state
59 statute or federal law;

60 (b) subject to [~~Subsections (2)(a) and (b);~~] Subsection (2)(b), an individual 21 years old
61 or older who may otherwise lawfully possess firearms, may open or conceal carry,

- 62 without a conceal carry permit:
- 63 (i) an unloaded or loaded firearm:
- 64 (A) on a public street; or
- 65 (B) in any other place not prohibited by, or pursuant to, state statute or federal law;
- 66 (ii) an unloaded or loaded handgun in a vehicle in which the individual is lawfully
- 67 present; and
- 68 (iii) an unloaded rifle, shotgun, or muzzle-loading rifle in a vehicle in which the
- 69 individual is lawfully present; and
- 70 (c) subject to Subsections (2)(c) and (d), an individual 18 years old or older with a
- 71 concealed carry permit issued under Section 53-5a-303, a temporary concealed carry
- 72 permit issued under Section 53-5a-304, a provisional concealed carry permit issued
- 73 under Section 53-5a-305, or a concealed carry permit lawfully issued by or in another
- 74 state, who may otherwise lawfully possess firearms, may open or conceal carry a
- 75 loaded or unloaded firearm:
- 76 (i) in a vehicle in which the individual is lawfully present;
- 77 (ii) on a public street; or
- 78 (iii) in any other place not prohibited by, or pursuant to, state statute or federal law.
- 79 (2)(a) An individual [~~openly carrying a firearm~~] 18 years old or older but younger than
- 80 21 years old under Subsection (1)(a) [~~or (b)~~] without a provisional concealed carry
- 81 permit issued under Section 53-5a-305 may not carry [~~the~~] a firearm in any manner:
- 82 (i) in a secure area established in accordance with Section 76-8-311.1 in which
- 83 dangerous weapons are prohibited and notice of the prohibition is posted;
- 84 (ii) on or about the premises of a public or private elementary school or secondary
- 85 school as described in Section 76-11-205;
- 86 (iii) on or about the premises of an institution of higher education as described in
- 87 Section 76-11-205.5;
- 88 (iv) on or about the premises of a daycare as described in Section 76-11-206;
- 89 (v) in an airport secure area as described in Section 76-11-218;
- 90 (vi) in a house of worship or in any private residence where dangerous weapons are
- 91 prohibited as described in Section 76-11-219; or
- 92 (vii) in any other place prohibited by, or pursuant to, another state statute or federal
- 93 law.
- 94 (b) An individual 21 years old or older [~~concealing a firearm~~] without a concealed carry
- 95 permit under Subsection (1)(b) may not;

- 96 (i) ~~[-] carry [the] a firearm in any manner:~~
 97 ~~[(i)] (A) in a secure area established in accordance with Section 76-8-311.1 in~~
 98 ~~which dangerous weapons are prohibited and notice of the prohibition is posted;~~
 99 ~~[(ii)] (B) on or about the school premises of a public or private elementary school~~
 100 ~~or secondary school as described in Section 76-11-205;~~
 101 ~~[(iii) on or about the premises of an institution of higher education as described in~~
 102 ~~Section 76-11-205.5;]~~
 103 ~~[(iv)] (C) on or about a daycare premises as described in Section 76-11-206;~~
 104 ~~[(v)] (D) in an airport secure area as described in Section 76-11-218;~~
 105 ~~[(vi)] (E) in a house of worship or in any private residence where dangerous~~
 106 ~~weapons are prohibited as described in Section 76-11-219; or~~
 107 ~~[(vii)] (F) in any other place prohibited by, or pursuant to, another state statute or~~
 108 ~~federal law[-] ; or~~
 109 (ii) openly carry a firearm, unless lawfully responding to an active threat in
 110 accordance with Section 76-2-402, 76-2-405, or 76-2-407, on or about the
 111 premises of an institution of higher education as described in Section 76-11-205.5.
 112 (c) Subject to Subsection (2)(d), an individual with a concealed carry permit under
 113 Subsection (1)(c) may not[-] ;
 114 (i) carry ~~the] a~~ firearm in any manner:
 115 ~~[(i)] (A) in a secure area established in accordance with Section 76-8-311.1 in~~
 116 ~~which dangerous weapons are prohibited and notice of the prohibition posted;~~
 117 ~~[(ii)] (B) in an airport secure area as described in Section 76-11-218;~~
 118 ~~[(iii)] (C) in a house of worship or in any private residence where dangerous~~
 119 ~~weapons are prohibited as described in Section 76-11-219; or~~
 120 ~~[(iv)] (D) in any other place prohibited by, or pursuant to, another state statute or~~
 121 ~~federal law[-] ; or~~
 122 (ii) openly carry a firearm, unless lawfully responding to an active threat in
 123 accordance with Section 76-2-402, 76-2-405, or 76-2-407:
 124 (A) on or about the premises of a public or private elementary school or secondary
 125 school as described in Section 76-11-205; or
 126 (B) on or about the premises of an institution of higher education as described in
 127 Section 76-11-205.5.
 128 (d) In addition to the ~~the] restrictions~~ described in Subsection (2)(c):
 129 (i) an individual 18 years old but younger than 21 years old with a provisional

- 130 concealed carry permit under Section 53-5a-304 may not carry ~~[the]~~ a firearm in
131 any manner on or about the premises of a public or private elementary school or
132 secondary school as described in Section 76-11-205; and
- 133 (ii) an individual ~~[concealing a firearm only]~~ with only a concealed carry permit
134 lawfully issued by or in another state may not carry ~~[the]~~ a firearm in any manner:
- 135 (A) on or about the premises of a public or private elementary school or secondary
136 school as described in Section 76-11-205; or
- 137 ~~[(B) on or about the premises of an institution of higher education as described in~~
138 ~~Section 76-11-205.5; or]~~
- 139 ~~[(C)]~~ (B) on or about the premises of a daycare as described in Section 76-11-206.
- 140 (3) This section does not prohibit:
- 141 (a) the owner or lawful possessor of a vehicle from prohibiting another individual from
142 carrying a firearm in the owner or lawful possessor's vehicle; or
- 143 (b) except as provided in Section 53-5a-102.3, the owner or lawful lessee of private real
144 property from prohibiting another individual from possessing a firearm on the
145 property.
- 146 (4) An individual is lawfully present in a vehicle while carrying a firearm under this section
147 if:
- 148 (a) the vehicle is in the lawful possession of the individual; or
- 149 (b) the individual has the consent of the person lawfully in possession of the vehicle to
150 carry the firearm in the vehicle.
- 151 Section 2. Section **53H-3-902** is amended to read:
- 152 **53H-3-902 . Power of board and institutions to adopt rules and enact regulations.**
- 153 (1) As used in this section, "face covering" means the same as that term is defined in
154 Section 53G-9-210.
- 155 (2)(a) The board may enact regulations governing the conduct of university and college
156 students, faculty, and employees.
- 157 (b) A president in consultation with the board of trustees, may enact policies governing
158 the conduct of university and college students, faculty, and employees.
- 159 (3)(a) An institution may enact traffic, parking, and related policies governing all
160 individuals on campus and facilities owned or controlled by the institution.
- 161 (b)(i) The board and an institution may not require proof of vaccination as a
162 condition for enrollment or attendance within the system of higher education
163 unless the board or an institution allows for the following exemptions:

- 164 (A) a medical exemption if the student provides to the institution a statement that
165 the claimed exemption is for a medical reason; and
- 166 (B) a personal exemption if the student provides to the institution a statement that
167 the claimed exemption is for a personal or religious belief.
- 168 (ii) An institution that offers both remote and in-person learning options may not
169 deny a student who is exempt from a requirement to receive a vaccine under
170 Subsection (3)(b)(i) to participate in an in-person learning option based upon the
171 student's vaccination status.
- 172 (iii) Subsections (3)(b)(i) and (ii) do not apply to a student studying in a medical
173 setting at an institution of higher education.
- 174 (iv) Nothing in this section restricts a state or local health department from acting
175 under applicable law to contain the spread of an infectious disease.
- 176 (c)(i) The board or an institution may not require an individual to wear a face
177 covering as a condition of attendance for in-person instruction,
178 institution-sponsored athletics, institution-sponsored extracurricular activities, in
179 dormitories, or in any other place on a campus of an institution within the system
180 of higher education at any time after the end of the spring semester in 2021.
- 181 (ii) Subsection (3)(c)(i) does not apply to an individual in a medical setting at an
182 institution of higher education.
- 183 (4) The board shall enact regulations that require all testimony be given under oath during
184 an employee grievance hearing for a non-faculty employee of an institution of higher
185 education if the grievance hearing relates to the non-faculty employee's:
- 186 (a) demotion; or
187 (b) termination.
- 188 (5) Acknowledging that the Legislature has the authority to regulate, by law, firearms at
189 higher education institutions, the board may:
- 190 (a) authorize higher education institutions to establish no more than one secure area at
191 each institution as a hearing room in accordance with Section 76-8-311.1, but not
192 otherwise restrict the lawful possession or carrying of firearms; and
- 193 (b) authorize a higher education institution to make a policy that allows a resident of a
194 dormitory located at the institution to request only roommates who ~~[are not licensed~~
195 ~~to carry a concealed firearm under Section 53-5a-303 or Section 53-5a-305]~~ choose
196 not to possess firearms in the resident's dorm that the roommates may otherwise
197 lawfully possess in the dormitory.

- 198 (6) In addition to the requirements and penalty prescribed in Sections 76-8-311.1 and
 199 76-8-311.2, the board shall make rules to ensure:
- 200 (a) the use of reasonable means such as mechanical, electronic, x-ray, or similar devices,
 201 to detect firearms, ammunition, or dangerous weapons contained in the personal
 202 property of or on the person of any individual attempting to enter a secure area
 203 hearing room;
- 204 (b) that an individual required or requested to attend a hearing in a secure area hearing
 205 room is notified in writing of the requirements related to entering a secure area
 206 hearing room under this Subsection (6)(b) and Section 76-8-311.1;
- 207 (c) that the restriction of firearms, ammunition, or dangerous weapons in the secure area
 208 hearing room is in effect only during the time the secure area hearing room is in use
 209 for hearings and for a reasonable time before and after the hearing; and
- 210 (d) the application of reasonable space limitations to the secure area hearing room as the
 211 number of individuals involved in a typical hearing warrants.
- 212 (7) The board and institutions may enforce the rules, regulations, and policies described in
 213 this section in any reasonable manner, including the assessment of fees, fines, and
 214 forfeitures, through:
- 215 (a) withholding from money owed the violator;
- 216 (b) the imposition of probation, suspension, or expulsion from the institution;
- 217 (c) the revocation of privileges;
- 218 (d) the refusal to issue certificates, degrees, and diplomas;
- 219 (e) judicial process; or
- 220 (f) any reasonable combination of the alternatives described in this Subsection (7).

221 Section 3. Section **76-11-205** is amended to read:

222 **76-11-205 . Carrying a dangerous weapon at an elementary school or secondary**
 223 **school.**

- 224 (1)(a) As used in this section, "on or about school premises" means:
- 225 (i) in a public or private elementary school or secondary school; or
- 226 (ii) on the grounds of a private elementary school or secondary school.
- 227 (b) Terms defined in Sections 76-1-101.5, 76-11-101, and 76-11-201 apply to this
 228 section.
- 229 (2) An actor commits carrying a dangerous weapon at an elementary school or secondary
 230 school if the actor:
- 231 (a) is not an individual listed in Subsection (4);

- 232 (b) carries a dangerous weapon on or about school premises; and
233 (c) knows or reasonably believes that the actor is on or about school premises at the time
234 the actor carries the dangerous weapon.
- 235 (3)(a) A violation of Subsection (2) is a class B misdemeanor if the dangerous weapon
236 carried by the actor is not a firearm.
- 237 (b) A violation of Subsection (2) is a class A misdemeanor if the dangerous weapon
238 carried by the actor is a firearm.
- 239 (4) This section does not apply if:
- 240 (a) the actor is an individual exempt from certain weapons laws as described in Section
241 53-5a-108;
- 242 (b) the actor is 21 years old or older and has a concealed carry permit as described in
243 Section 53-5a-303 and is carrying the actor's dangerous weapon in a concealed
244 manner unless lawfully responding to an active threat in accordance with Section
245 76-2-402, 76-2-405, or 76-2-407;
- 246 (c) the actor is 21 years old or older and has a temporary concealed carry permit issued
247 under Section 53-5a-305 and is carrying the actor's dangerous weapon in a concealed
248 manner unless lawfully responding to an active threat in accordance with Section 76
249 -2-402, 76-2-405, or 76-2-407;
- 250 (d) the actor is carrying the dangerous weapon at the actor's place of residence or on the
251 actor's real property;
- 252 (e) the possession of the dangerous weapon is approved by the responsible school
253 administrator;
- 254 (f) the dangerous weapon is present or to be used in connection with a lawful, approved
255 activity and is in the possession or under the control of the actor responsible for the
256 dangerous weapon's possession or use;
- 257 (g) the actor is an armed school security guard as described in Section 53G-8-704; or
- 258 (h) the actor is carrying the dangerous weapon in a vehicle lawfully under the actor's
259 control, not including a vehicle owned by the school or used by the school to
260 transport students.
- 261 (5) This section does not:
- 262 (a) prohibit prosecution of another criminal offense that may occur on or about school
263 premises; or
- 264 (b) prevent an actor from securely storing a firearm on the grounds of a school if the
265 actor:

- 266 (i) participates in:
- 267 (A) the school guardian program created in Section 53-22-105; or
- 268 (B) the Educator-Protector Program created in Section 53-22-107; and
- 269 (ii) complies with the requirements for securely storing the firearm described in
- 270 Subsection 53-22-107(5)(a).

271 Section 4. Section **76-11-205.5** is amended to read:

272 **76-11-205.5 . Openly carrying a dangerous weapon at an institution of higher**

273 **education.**

274 (1)(a) As used in this section[;] :

275 (i) "Institution of higher education" means the same as that term is defined in Section

276 53H-1-101.

277 (ii) [~~on~~] "On or about school premises" means:

278 [(a)] (A) in [~~a public or private~~] an institution of higher education; or

279 [(b)] (B) on the grounds of a [~~public or private~~] an institution of higher education.

280 (b) Terms defined in Sections 76-1-101.5, 76-11-101, and 76-11-201 apply to this

281 section.

282 (2) An actor commits openly carrying a dangerous weapon at an institution of higher

283 education if[~~the actor~~]:

284 [(a) is not an individual listed in Subsection (4);]

285 [(b)] (a) the actor intentionally carries a dangerous weapon on or about school premises;[

286 and]

287 (b) the actor intentionally carries the dangerous weapon in a manner that the dangerous

288 weapon is visible to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person;

289 (c) the dangerous weapon is not covered, hidden, or secreted in a way that would make

290 the dangerous weapon's presence unobservable to the ordinary observation of a

291 reasonable person; and

292 [(e)] (d) the actor knows, or reasonably believes, that the actor is on or about school

293 premises at the time the actor carries the dangerous weapon.

294 (3)[(a) ~~A violation of Subsection (2) is a class B misdemeanor if the dangerous weapon~~

295 ~~carried by the actor is not a firearm.~~]

296 [(b)] A violation of Subsection (2) is a class [A] (C) misdemeanor[~~if the dangerous~~

297 ~~weapon carried by the actor is a firearm].~~

298 (4) This section does not apply if:

299 (a) the actor is an individual exempt from certain weapons laws as described in Section

- 300 53-5a-108;
- 301 (b) the actor is lawfully concealing the dangerous weapon and accidentally or
- 302 inadvertently exposes the dangerous weapon to public view;
- 303 (c) the actor is openly carrying the dangerous weapon while lawfully responding to an
- 304 active threat in accordance with Section 76-2-402, 76-2-405, or 76-2-407;
- 305 [~~(b) the actor has a concealed carry permit as described in Section 53-5a-303;~~]
- 306 [~~(e) the actor has a provisional concealed carry permit as described in Section 53-5a-304;~~]
- 307 [~~(d) the actor has a temporary concealed carry permit issued under Section 53-5a-305;~~]
- 308 [(e)] (d) the actor is openly carrying the dangerous weapon at the actor's place of
- 309 residence or on the actor's real property;
- 310 [(f)] (e) the [possession of the dangerous weapon] open carrying of the dangerous weapon
- 311 is approved by the responsible school administrator;
- 312 [(g)] (f) the dangerous weapon is present or to be used in connection with a lawful,
- 313 approved activity and is in the possession or under the control of the actor
- 314 responsible for the dangerous weapon's possession or use; or
- 315 [(h)] (g) the actor is openly carrying the dangerous weapon in a vehicle lawfully under
- 316 the actor's control, not including a vehicle owned by the school or used by the school
- 317 to transport students.
- 318 (5) This section does not prohibit prosecution of another criminal offense that may occur on
- 319 or about school premises.

320 Section 5. **Effective Date.**

321 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.