1 Public Official Bonding Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: James A. Dunnigan
LONG TITLE
Committee Note:
The Political Subdivisions Interim Committee recommended this bill.
Legislative Vote: 11 voting for 0 voting against 5 absent
General Description:
This bill amends provisions relating to bonds required for public officials and employees to
protect against malfeasance or misfeasance in office and replaces the requirement to post a
bond with a requirement to obtain crime insurance.
Highlighted Provisions:
This bill:
replaces requirements for bonds that a public official or employee is required to post in
relation to the performance of duties with a requirement to obtain crime insurance;
removes provisions relating to bonds that do not apply when replaced with crime
insurance;
 removes provisions that make it difficult or impossible to obtain crime insurance;
• modifies, in certain circumstances, the scope of the coverage that relates to a bond that
will be replaced with crime insurance;
 establishes requirements relating to crime insurance;
 addresses liability relating to certain public officials;
 addresses the setting of rates and record keeping for crime insurance;
 addresses the failure to obtain crime insurance;
repeals certain provisions relating to actions on bonds; and
makes technical and conforming changes.
Money Appropriated in this Bill:
None
Other Special Clauses:
None
Utah Code Sections Affected:

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AMENDS:

- **4-21-107**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 393
- 4-22-108, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2017, Chapter 345
- **10-3-831**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 318
- **10-8-78**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 365
- **11-68-601**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 502
- **17-16-4**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 297
- **17-16-11**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 268
- **17-53-103**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2000, Chapter 133
- **17-53-307**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 140
- **17B-1-301**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 15
- **17B-1-303**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 388, 465
- **17B-2a-1005**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 529
- **51-7-15**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 56
- **52-1-1**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 438
- 52-1-2, as repealed and reenacted by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 336
- **52-1-3**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- **52-1-4**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- **52-1-5**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- **52-1-6**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- **52-1-10**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- **52-2-1**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 336
- **59-2-314**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1993, Chapter 227
- **59-2-315**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1993, Chapter 227
- 63G-7-805, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 382
- **63H-7a-603**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2017, Chapter 430
- **67-4-10**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1998, Chapter 14
- **67-4-11**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 342
- **67-9-1**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1984, Chapter 68
- **67-9-2**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 365
- **78B-2-310**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 3
- 62 REPEALS AND REENACTS:
- **17-53-227**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2000, Chapter 133
- **52-1-13**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 121
- 65 REPEALS:

66 **52-1-7**, Utah Code Annotated 1953 67 **52-1-8**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 365 68 **52-1-9**, Utah Code Annotated 1953 69 **52-1-11**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 365 70 **52-1-12**, Utah Code Annotated 1953 71 72 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:* 73 Section 1. Section **4-21-107** is amended to read: 74 4-21-107. Council may require crime insurance -- Payment of premium. 75 (1) The council may require the administrator or a council employee to [post a surety bond 76 conditioned for the faithful performance of the council's official] obtain crime insurance 77 in relation to the administrator's or employee's duties. 78 (2) The amount and type of bond shall be fixed by the council and each bond premium 79 shall be paid by the council. 80 (2) The council shall set the amount of crime insurance required and pay the premium. 81 Section 2. Section **4-22-108** is amended to read: 82 4-22-108. Commission may require crime insurance -- Payment of premium. 83 (1) The commission may require the administrator, or any commission employees, to 84 post a surety bond conditioned for the faithful performance of the commission's official 85 duties. The amount, form, and kind of such a bond shall be fixed by the commission and 86 each bond premium shall be paid by the commission.] or a commission employee to 87 obtain crime insurance in relation to the administrator's or employee's duties. 88 (2) The commission shall set the amount of crime insurance required and pay the premium. 89 Section 3. Section **10-3-831** is amended to read: 90 10-3-831. Crime insurance. 91 (1) As used in this section, "municipal officer" means: 92 (a) the mayor; 93 (b) each member of the municipal legislative body; 94 (c) the municipal treasurer; and 95 (d) anyone for whom the municipal legislative body determines a general fidelity or 96 public employee blanket bond or theft or crime insurance should be acquired.] 97 (d) an individual whom the municipal legislative body requires to obtain crime insurance.

municipality shall prescribe the amount of a general fidelity bond or theft or crime

[(2)(a)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the legislative body of each

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100	insurance to be acquired for the municipal officer.]
101	[(ii) If, under Subsection (2)(a)(i), a municipality has prescribed the amount of the general
102	fidelity bond required, then theft or crime insurance in an amount that is not less than the
103	bond satisfies the requirement described in Subsection (2)(a)(i).]
104	(2)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(c), the legislative body of each municipality
105	shall set the amount of crime insurance required for each municipal officer.
106	[(iii)] (b) Before a municipal officer may discharge the duties of the officer's office, the
107	municipality shall have in place [a bond or theft or] crime insurance covering the
108	municipal officer in the [amounts] amount set by the municipality[-prescribes].
109	[(b)] (c) Before [the-] a municipal treasurer may discharge the duties of the treasurer's
110	office, the municipality shall have in place [a bond or theft or]crime insurance
111	covering the treasurer in an amount not less than the amount set by the State Money
112	Management Council, created in Section 51-7-16[, prescribes].
113	[(c)] (d) A municipal legislative body may acquire [a fidelity bond or theft or]crime
114	insurance on all municipal officers and the municipal treasurer as a group rather than
115	individually.
116	(3) The municipal legislative body shall pay the [cost of each fidelity bond and theft or]
117	premium of a crime insurance policy described in this section from municipal funds.
118	(4) The municipal recorder shall [file and-]maintain [each fidelity bond] proof of crime
119	insurance acquired under this section.
120	Section 4. Section 10-8-78 is amended to read:
121	10-8-78 . Crime insurance and reports.
122	[They] The governing body of a city may require all municipal officers and
123	agents, elected or appointed, to [give bond and security for the faithful performance of their
124	duties,] <u>:</u>
125	(1) obtain crime insurance in relation to the performance of the officers' or agents' duties;
126	and
127	(2) require from every officer of the city at any time a report in detail of all transactions in
128	the [officer of the city's] officer's office or any matters connected [therewith] with the
129	officer's office.
130	Section 5. Section 11-68-601 is amended to read:
131	11-68-601 . Financial reports Audit Crime insurance.
132	(1)(a) The authority shall, following the close of each fiscal year, submit an annual
133	report of the authority's activities for the preceding year to the governor and the

134	Legislature.
135	(b) The report shall contain:
136	(i) a complete operating report detailing the authority's activities; and
137	(ii) financial statements of the authority audited by a certified public accountant
138	according to generally accepted auditing standards.
139	(2)(a) At least once a year, the state auditor shall:
140	(i) audit the books and accounts of the authority; or
141	(ii) contract with a nationally recognized independent certified public accountant to
142	conduct the audit and review the audit report when the audit is completed.
143	(b) The authority shall reimburse the state auditor for the costs of the audit.
144	(c) If the audit is conducted by an independent auditor, the independent auditor shall
145	submit a copy of the audit to the state auditor for review within 90 days after the end
146	of the fiscal year covered by the audit.
147	(3)(a) The authority shall maintain [a surety bond in the penal sum] crime insurance
148	coverage of \$25,000 for each member of the board.
149	(b) The authority shall maintain [a surety bond in the penal sum] crime insurance
150	coverage of \$50,000 for the executive director.
151	(c) The authority shall ensure that [each surety bond] the crime insurance coverage
152	described in this section is:
153	(i) [eonditioned upon the faithful] related to the performance of the duties of office to
154	which the [surety bond attaches] crime insurance relates;
155	(ii) issued by [a surety] an insurance company authorized to transact business in the
156	state as [a surety] an insurer; and
157	(iii) [filed] recorded by filing proof of the insurance in the office of the State
158	Treasurer.
159	(d) The authority shall pay the [eost of the surety bonds] crime insurance premiums.
160	Section 6. Section 17-16-4 is amended to read:
161	17-16-4. Election of officer to consolidated office.
162	When offices are united and consolidated:
163	(1) only one person shall be elected to fill the united and consolidated offices; and
164	(2) the person elected shall:
165	(a) take the oath and [give the bond] obtain the crime insurance required for each of the
166	offices; and
167	(b) discharge all the duties [pertaining to] of each of the offices

168	Section 7. Section 17-16-11 is amended to read:
169	17-16-11. Crime insurance.
170	(1) As used in this section, "county officials" means:
171	(a) the members of the county legislative body;
172	(b) the county executive;
173	(c) the county clerk;
174	(d) the county auditor;
175	(e) the county sheriff;
176	(f) the county attorney;
177	(g) in a county that is within a prosecution district, the district attorney;
178	(h) the county recorder;
179	(i) the county assessor;
180	(j) the county surveyor;
181	(k) each justice court judge and constable within the county;
182	(l) the county treasurer; and
183	[(m) each deputy or assistant of those listed in Subsections (1)(a) through (l) for whom
184	the county legislative body determines a general fidelity bond or theft or crime
185	insurance should be acquired.]
186	(m) a deputy or assistant of an individual described in Subsections (1)(a) through (l)
187	whom the county legislative body requires to obtain crime insurance.
188	[(2)(a) The legislative body of each county shall prescribe the amount of each general
189	fidelity bond or of theft or crime insurance to be acquired for county officials, except the
190	county treasurer, before the county officials, except the county treasurer, may discharge
191	the duties of their respective offices.]
192	[(b) The State Money Management Council created in Section 51-7-16 shall prescribe the
193	amount of a general fidelity bond or theft or crime insurance to be acquired for the
194	county treasurer before the county treasurer may discharge the duties of that office.]
195	[(e) A county legislative body may acquire a fidelity bond or theft or crime insurance on
196	all county officials as a group rather than individually.]
197	[(3)(a) The county legislative body shall approve the premium for each fidelity bond
198	before the bond may be filed.]
199	[(b) The cost of each fidelity bond and theft or crime insurance policy shall be paid from
200	county funds.]
201	[(4) Each fidelity bond shall be filed and maintained in the office of the county clerk.]

202	(2)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b):
203	(i) the legislative body of each county shall set the amount of crime insurance to be
204	acquired for county officials; and
205	(ii) a county official may not discharge the duties of the county official's office before
206	obtaining the crime insurance described in Subsection (2)(a)(i).
207	(b) The State Money Management Council created in Section 51-7-16 shall set the
208	amount of crime insurance required for the county treasurer.
209	(c) The county treasurer may not discharge the duties of the county treasurer's office
210	before obtaining the crime insurance described in Subsection (2)(b).
211	(3) A county legislative body may acquire crime insurance on all county officials as a group
212	rather than individually.
213	(4) The cost of a crime insurance policy shall be paid from county funds.
214	(5) The county clerk shall maintain proof of the crime insurance described in this section.
215	[(5)] (6)(a) The district attorney of each multicounty prosecution district shall:
216	[(i) execute a fidelity bond or acquire theft or] obtain crime insurance in the amount
217	specified in the interlocal agreement that created the prosecution district; and
218	[(ii)] (i) file [each fidelity bond] proof of the crime insurance policy with the county
219	clerk as specified in the interlocal agreement.
220	(b) The cost of [each fidelity bond or theft or] a crime insurance policy [under Subsection
221	(5)(a)] described in Subsection (6)(a) shall be paid as specified in the interlocal
222	agreement that created the prosecution district.
223	Section 8. Section 17-53-103 is amended to read:
224	17-53-103. Unauthorized payment or warrant Investigation by another county
225	attorney Action to enjoin or recover payment.
226	(1)(a) If a county officer, without authority of law, orders any money paid for any
227	purpose, or if any other county officer draws a warrant in the officer's own favor or in
228	favor of any other person without being authorized [to do so]by the county
229	legislative body or by law, the county attorney of that county shall request a county
230	attorney from another county to investigate whether an unauthorized payment has
231	been ordered or an unauthorized warrant drawn.
232	(b) If the county attorney requests a county attorney from another county to investigate
233	under Subsection (1)(a), the county attorney shall deputize the investigating county
234	attorney.
235	(2) If an investigating county attorney determines that an unauthorized payment has been

236	ordered or that an unauthorized warrant has been drawn, that county attorney may
237	commence and prosecute an action in the name of the county:
238	(a) if the payment has not been made or the warrant paid, to enjoin the payment of the
239	unauthorized payment or of the unauthorized warrant; or
240	(b) if the payment has been made or the warrant paid[, to recover from the payee or the
241	county officer and the officer's official bondsman the amount paid] :
242	(i) to the extent possible, to recover the amount from the payee or the county officer;
243	<u>or</u>
244	(ii) to the extent applicable, to recover the amount in accordance with the applicable
245	crime insurance policy.
246	(3) An order of the county legislative body is not necessary in order to maintain an action
247	under Subsection (2).
248	Section 9. Section 17-53-227 is repealed and reenacted to read:
249	17-53-227 . Crime insurance for breach of duty by county legislative body
250	member.
251	A county legislative body shall:
252	(1) obtain, and pay the premiums for, crime insurance on the members of the county
253	legislative body in relation to the performance of the member's duties; and
254	(2) set the amount of coverage required for the crime insurance described in Subsection (1).
255	Section 10. Section 17-53-307 is amended to read:
256	17-53-307. County purchasing agent Appointment Oath Crime insurance
257	Supervision Duties.
258	(1) The county executive, with the advice and consent of the county legislative body, in
259	each county having a taxable value in excess of \$500,000,000 may appoint a county
260	purchasing agent.
261	(2)(a) The <u>purchasing</u> agent shall qualify by taking, subscribing, and filing the
262	constitutional oath[-and giving bond to the county in a sum fixed by the county
263	legislative body].
264	(b) The county shall obtain crime insurance:
265	(i) in an amount set by the county legislative body, in relation to the duties of the
266	purchasing agent; and
267	(ii) before the purchasing agent begins fulfilling the duties of the purchasing agent.
268	(3)(a) The county purchasing agent shall, under the direction and supervision of the
269	county executive and except as provided in Subsection (3)(b):

270	(i) negotiate for the purchase of or contract for all supplies and materials required by
271	the county;
272	(ii) submit all contracts and purchases negotiated by the purchasing agent under
273	Subsection (3)(a)(i) to the county executive for approval and ratification;[-and]
274	(iii) keep an accurate and complete record of all purchases and a detailed disposition
275	of [them and,] the purchases; and
276	(iv) when required by the county legislative body, make a complete and detailed
277	report to [it] the county legislative body of business transacted.
278	(b) Subject to Subsection (3)(c), the county executive may structure the county
279	purchasing agent's office so that:
280	(i) the county purchasing agent's office is physically located within the county
281	auditor's office; and
282	(ii) the county purchasing agent receives direction and supervision from the county
283	auditor.
284	(c) The county executive:
285	(i) may not structure the county purchasing agent's office as described in Subsection
286	(3)(b) unless:
287	(A) the county executive receives the advice and consent of the county council;
288	and
289	(B) the county executive and county auditor agree, in writing, to the proposed
290	structure, including the level of direction and supervision of the county
291	purchasing agent retained by the county executive; and
292	(ii) shall maintain the level of direction and supervision over the county purchasing
293	agent as agreed upon with the county auditor.
294	(4) The county executive may exclude from the purchasing agent's responsibility a county
295	clerk's duties concerning elections or a sheriff's duties under Section 17-22-8.
296	Section 11. Section 17B-1-301 is amended to read:
297	17B-1-301 . Board of trustees duties and powers.
298	(1)(a) Each special district shall be governed by a board of trustees [which-] that shall:
299	(i) manage and conduct the business and affairs of the district; and [-shall-]
300	(ii) determine all questions of district policy.
301	(b) All powers of a special district are exercised through the board of trustees.
302	(2) The board of trustees may:
303	(a) fix the location of the special district's principal place of business and the location of

304		all offices and departments, if any;
305	(b)	fix the times of meetings of the board of trustees;
306	(c)	select and use an official district seal;
307	(d)	subject to Subsections (3) and (4), employ employees and agents, or delegate to
308		district officers power to employ employees and agents, for the operation of the
309		special district and [its] the special district's properties and prescribe or delegate to
310		district officers the power to prescribe the duties, compensation, and terms and
311		conditions of employment of those employees and agents;
312	(e)	require <u>crime insurance for</u> district officers and employees charged with the handling
313		of district funds[to provide surety bonds] in an amount set by the board[or provide a
314		blanket surety bond to cover officers and employees];
315	(f)	contract for or employ professionals to perform work or services for the special
316		district that cannot satisfactorily be performed by the officers or employees of the
317		district;
318	(g)	through counsel, prosecute on behalf of or defend the special district in all court
319		actions or other proceedings in which the district is a party or is otherwise involved;
320	(h)	adopt bylaws for the orderly functioning of the board;
321	(i)	adopt and enforce rules and regulations for the orderly operation of the special district
322		or for carrying out the district's purposes;
323	(j)	prescribe a system of civil service for district employees;
324	(k)	on behalf of the special district, enter into contracts that the board considers to be for
325		the benefit of the district;
326	(1)	acquire, construct or cause to be constructed, operate, occupy, control, and use
327		buildings, works, or other facilities for carrying out the purposes of the special
328		district;
329	(m)	on behalf of the special district, acquire, use, hold, manage, occupy, and possess
330		property necessary to carry out the purposes of the district, dispose of property when
331		the board considers it appropriate, and institute and maintain in the name of the
332		district any action or proceeding to enforce, maintain, protect, or preserve rights or
333		privileges associated with district property;
334	(n)	delegate to a district officer the exercise of a district duty; and
335	(o)	exercise all powers and perform all functions in the operation of the special district
336		and [its] the special district's properties as are ordinarily exercised by the governing
337		body of a political subdivision of the state and as are necessary to accomplish the

338	purposes of the district.
339	(3)(a) As used in this Subsection (3), "interim vacancy period" means:
340	(i) if any member of the special district board is elected, the period of time that:
341	(A) begins on the day on which an election is held to elect a special district board
342	member; and
343	(B) ends on the day on which the special district board member-elect begins the
344	member's term; or
345	(ii) if any member of the special district board is appointed, the period of time that:
346	(A) begins on the day on which an appointing authority posts a notice of vacancy
347	in accordance with Section 17B-1-304; and
348	(B) ends on the day on which the [person] individual who is appointed by the
349	special district board to fill the vacancy begins the [person's-] individual's term.
350	(b)(i) The special district may not hire during an interim vacancy period a manager,
351	a chief executive officer, a chief administrative officer, an executive director, or a
352	similar position to perform executive and administrative duties or functions.
353	(ii) Notwithstanding Subsection (3)(b)(i):
354	(A) the special district may hire an interim manager, a chief executive officer, a
355	chief administrative officer, an executive director, or a similar position during
356	an interim vacancy period; and
357	(B) the interim manager's, chief executive officer's, chief administrative officer's,
358	or similar position's employment shall terminate once a new manager, chief
359	executive officer, chief administrative officer, or similar position is hired by
360	the new special district board after the interim vacancy period has ended.
361	(c) Subsection (3)(b) does not apply if:
362	(i) all the elected special district board members who held office on the day of the
363	election for the special district board members, whose term of office was vacant
364	for the election are re-elected to the special district board; and
365	(ii) all the appointed special district board members who were appointed whose term
366	of appointment was expiring are re-appointed to the special district board.
367	(4) A special district board that hires an interim manager, a chief executive officer, a chief
368	administrative officer, an executive director, or a similar position in accordance with this
369	section may not[, on or after May 10, 2011,] enter into an employment contract that
370	contains an automatic renewal provision with the interim manager, chief executive
371	officer, chief administrative officer, executive director, or similar position.

372	Section 12. Section 17B-1-303 is amended to read:
373	17B-1-303 . Term of board of trustees members Oath of office Crime
374	insurance Notice of board member contact information.
375	(1)(a) Except as provided in Subsections (1)(b), (c), (d), and (e), the term of each
376	member of a board of trustees begins at noon on the January 1 following the
377	member's election or appointment.
378	(b) The term of each member of the initial board of trustees of a newly created special
379	district begins:
380	(i) upon appointment, for an appointed member; and
381	(ii) upon the member taking the oath of office after the canvass of the election at
382	which the member is elected, for an elected member.
383	(c) The term of each water conservancy district board member whom the governor
384	appoints in accordance with Subsection 17B-2a-1005(2)(c):
385	(i) begins on the later of the following:
386	(A) the date on which the Senate consents to the appointment; or
387	(B) the expiration date of the prior term; and
388	(ii) ends on the February 1 that is approximately four years after the date described in
389	Subsection $(1)(c)(i)(A)$ or (B) .
390	(d) The term of a member of a board of trustees whom an appointing authority appoints
391	in accordance with Subsection (5)(b) begins upon the member taking the oath of
392	office.
393	(e) If the member of the board of trustees fails to assume or qualify for office on January
394	1 for any reason, the term begins on the date the member assumes or qualifies for
395	office.
396	(2)(a)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (8), and subject to Subsections (2)(a)(ii)
397	and (iii), the term of each member of a board of trustees is four years, except that:
398	(A) approximately half the members of the initial board of trustees of an
399	infrastructure financing district, as designated in the governing document, shall
400	serve a six-year term so that the term of approximately half the board members
401	expires every two years; and
402	(B) for any other special district, approximately half the members of the initial
403	board of trustees, chosen by lot, shall serve a two-year term so that the term of
404	approximately half the board members expires every two years.
405	(ii) If the terms of members of the initial board of trustees of a newly created special

406 district do not begin on January 1 because of application of Subsection (1)(b), the 407 terms of those members shall be adjusted as necessary, subject to Subsection 408 (2)(a)(iii), to result in the terms of their successors complying with: 409 (A) the requirement under Subsection (1)(a) for a term to begin on January 1 410 following a member's election or appointment; and 411 (B) the requirement under Subsection (2)(a)(i) that terms be four years. 412 (iii) If the term of a member of a board of trustees does not begin on January 1 413 because of the application of Subsection (1)(e), the term is shortened as necessary 414 to result in the term complying with the requirement under Subsection (1)(a) that 415 the successor member's term, regardless of whether the incumbent is the 416 successor, begins at noon on January 1 following the successor member's election 417 or appointment. 418 (iv) An adjustment under Subsection (2)(a)(ii) may not add more than a year to or 419 subtract more than a year from a member's term. 420 (b) Each board of trustees member shall serve until a successor is duly elected or 421 appointed and qualified, unless the member earlier is removed from office or resigns 422 or otherwise leaves office. 423 (c) If a member of a board of trustees no longer meets the qualifications of Subsection 424 17B-1-302(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), or (7), or if the member's term expires without a 425 duly elected or appointed successor: (i) the member's position is considered vacant, subject to Subsection (2)(c)(ii); and 426 427 (ii) the member may continue to serve until a successor is duly elected or appointed and qualified. 428 429 (3)(a)(i) Before entering upon the duties of office, each member of a board of trustees shall 430 take the oath of office specified in Utah Constitution, Article IV, 431 Section 10. 432 (ii) A judge, county clerk, notary public, or the special district clerk may administer 433 an oath of office. 434 (b) The member of the board of trustees taking the oath of office shall file the oath of 435 office with the clerk of the special district. 436 (c) The failure of a board of trustees member to take the oath under Subsection (3)(a) 437 does not invalidate any official act of that member. 438 (4) A board of trustees member may serve any number of terms. 439 (5)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (6), each midterm vacancy in a board of

440	trustees position is filled in accordance with Section 20A-1-512.
441	(b) When the number of members of a board of trustees increases in accordance with
442	Subsection 17B-1-302(10), the appointing authority may appoint an individual to fill
443	a new board of trustees position in accordance with Section 17B-1-304 or 20A-1-512.
444	(6)(a) As used in this Subsection (6):
445	(i) "Appointed official" means a person who:
446	(A) is appointed as a member of a special district board of trustees by a county or
447	municipality that is entitled to appoint a member to the board; and
448	(B) holds an elected position with the appointing county or municipality.
449	(ii) "Appointing entity" means the county or municipality that appointed the
450	appointed official to the board of trustees.
451	(b) The board of trustees shall declare a midterm vacancy for the board position held by
452	an appointed official if:
453	(i) during the appointed official's term on the board of trustees, the appointed official
454	ceases to hold the elected position with the appointing entity; and
455	(ii) the appointing entity submits a written request to the board to declare the vacancy
456	(c) Upon the board's declaring a midterm vacancy under Subsection (6)(b), the
457	appointing entity shall appoint another person to fill the remaining unexpired term on
458	the board of trustees.
459	(7)(a) A member of a board of trustees shall obtain [a fidelity bond or obtain theft or]
460	crime insurance [for the faithful] in relation to performance of the member's duties, in
461	the amount [and with the sureties or with an insurance company that] set by the board
462	of trustees[-prescribes].
463	(b) The special district:
464	(i) may assist the board of trustees in obtaining [a fidelity bond or obtaining theft or-]
465	crime insurance as a group or for members individually; and
466	(ii) shall pay the cost of [each fidelity bond or] the premium for the insurance
467	coverage required under this Subsection (7).
468	(8)(a) In order to compensate for a change in the election year under Subsection
469	17B-1-306(14), the lieutenant governor may:
470	(i) extend the term of an elected district board member by one year; or
471	(ii) subject to Subsection 17B-1-306(14)(b)(iii), and in accordance with Subsection
472	(2)(a), shorten the term of an elected district board member by one year, if
473	necessary, to ensure that the term of approximately half of the board members

474	expires every two years.
475	(b) When the number of members of a board of trustees increases in accordance with
476	Subsection 17B-1-302(10), to ensure that the term of approximately half of the board
477	members expires every two years in accordance with Subsection (2)(a):
478	(i) the board shall set shorter terms for approximately half of the new board members,
479	chosen by lot; and
480	(ii) the initial term of a new board member position may be less than two or four
481	years.
482	(9)(a) A special district shall:
483	(i) post on the Utah Public Notice Website created in Section 63A-16-601 the name,
484	phone number, and email address of each member of the special district's board of
485	trustees;
486	(ii) update the information described in Subsection (9)(a)(i) when:
487	(A) the membership of the board of trustees changes; or
488	(B) a member of the board of trustees' phone number or email address changes;
489	and
490	(iii) post any update required under Subsection (9)(a)(ii) within 30 days after the date
491	on which the change requiring the update occurs.
492	(b) This Subsection (9) applies regardless of whether the county or municipal legislative
493	body also serves as the board of trustees of the special district.
494	Section 13. Section 17B-2a-1005 is amended to read:
495	17B-2a-1005. Water conservancy district board of trustees Selection of
496	members Number Qualifications Terms Vacancies Crime insurance
497	Authority.
498	(1) Members of the board of trustees for a water conservancy district shall be:
499	(a) elected in accordance with:
500	(i) the petition or resolution that initiated the process of creating the water
501	conservancy district; and
502	(ii) Section 17B-1-306;
503	(b) appointed in accordance with Subsection (2); or
504	(c) elected under Subsection (4)(a).
505	(2)(a) If the members of the board of trustees are appointed, within 45 days after the day
506	on which a water conservancy district is created as provided in Section 17B-1-215,
507	the board of trustees shall be appointed as provided in this Subsection (2).

508	(b) For a district located entirely within the boundaries of a single county, the county
509	legislative body of that county shall appoint each trustee.
510	(c)(i) For a district located in more than a single county, the governor, with the
511	advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint each trustee from nominees
512	submitted as provided in this Subsection (2)(c).
513	(ii)(A) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(c)(ii)(B), in a division composed
514	solely of municipalities, the legislative body of each municipality within the
515	division shall submit two nominees per trustee.
516	(B) The legislative body of a municipality may submit fewer than two nominees
517	per trustee if the legislative body certifies in writing to the governor that the
518	legislative body is unable, after reasonably diligent effort, to identify two
519	nominees who are willing and qualified to serve as trustee.
520	(iii)(A) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(c)(iii)(B), in all other divisions, the
521	county legislative body of the county in which the division is located shall
522	submit three nominees per trustee.
523	(B) The county legislative body may submit fewer than three nominees per trustee
524	if the county legislative body certifies in writing to the governor that the county
525	legislative body is unable, after reasonably diligent effort, to identify three
526	nominees who are willing and qualified to serve as trustee.
527	(iv) If a trustee represents a division located in more than one county, the county
528	legislative bodies of those counties shall collectively compile the list of three
529	nominees.
530	(v) For purposes of this Subsection (2)(c), a municipality that is located in more than
531	one county shall be considered to be located in only the county in which more of
532	the municipal area is located than in any other county.
533	(d) In districts where substantial water is allocated for irrigated agriculture, one trustee
534	appointed in that district shall be a person who owns irrigation rights and uses those
535	rights as part of that person's livelihood.
536	(3)(a) The board shall give written notice of the upcoming vacancy in an appointed
537	trustee's term and the date when the trustee's term expires to the county legislative
538	body in single county districts and to the nominating entities and the governor in all
539	other districts:
540	(i) if the upcoming vacancy is in a single county district, at least 90 days before the
541	expiration of the trustee's term; and

542	(ii) for all other districts, on or before October 1 before the expiration of the
543	appointed trustee's term.
544	(b)(i) Upon receipt of the notice of the expiration of an appointed trustee's term or
545	notice of a vacancy in the office of an appointed trustee, the county or municipal
546	legislative body, as the case may be, shall nominate candidates to fill the
547	unexpired term of office pursuant to Subsection (2).
548	(ii) If a trustee is to be appointed by the governor and the entity charged with
549	nominating candidates has not submitted the list of nominees within 90 days after
550	service of the notice, the governor shall, with the advice and consent of the
551	Senate, make the appointment from qualified candidates without consultation with
552	the county or municipal legislative body.
553	(iii) If the governor fails to appoint, the incumbent shall continue to serve until a
554	successor is appointed and qualified.
555	(iv) Appointment by the governor vests in the appointee, upon qualification, the
556	authority to discharge the duties of trustee, subject only to the advice and consent
557	of the Senate.
558	(c) Each trustee shall hold office during the term for which appointed and until a
559	successor is duly appointed and has qualified.
560	(4)(a) Members of the board of trustees of a water conservancy district shall be elected,
561	if, subject to Subsection (4)(b):
562	(i) two-thirds of all members of the board of trustees of the water conservancy district
563	vote in favor of changing to an elected board; and
564	(ii) the legislative body of each municipality or county that appoints a member to the
565	board of trustees adopts a resolution approving the change to an elected board.
566	(b) A change to an elected board of trustees under Subsection (4)(a) may not shorten the
567	term of any member of the board of trustees serving at the time of the change.
568	(5) The board of trustees of a water conservancy district shall consist of:
569	(a) except as provided in Subsection (5)(b), not more than 11 persons who are residents
570	of the district; or
571	(b) if the district consists of five or more counties, not more than 21 persons who are
572	residents of the district.
573	(6) If an elected trustee's office is vacated, the vacated office shall be filled in accordance
574	with Section 17B-1-303.
575	(7) Each trustee shall [furnish a corporate surety bond] obtain crime insurance at the

576	expense of the district, conditioned for the faithful performance of duties as a trustee.
577	(8)(a) The board of trustees of a water conservancy district may:
578	(i) make and enforce all reasonable rules and regulations for the management,
579	control, delivery, use, and distribution of water;
580	(ii) withhold the delivery of water with respect to which there is a default or
581	delinquency of payment;
582	(iii) provide for and declare a forfeiture of the right to the use of water upon the
583	default or failure to comply with an order, contract, or agreement for the purchase,
584	lease, or use of water, and resell, lease, or otherwise dispose of water with respect
585	to which a forfeiture has been declared;
586	(iv) allocate and reallocate the use of water to lands within the district;
587	(v) provide for and grant the right, upon terms, to transfer water from lands to which
588	water has been allocated to other lands within the district;
589	(vi) create a lien, as provided in this part, upon land to which the use of water is
590	transferred;
591	(vii) discharge a lien from land to which a lien has attached; and
592	(viii) subject to Subsection (8)(b), enter into a written contract for the sale, lease, or
593	other disposition of the use of water.
594	(b)(i) A contract under Subsection (8)(a)(viii) may provide for the use of water
595	perpetually or for a specified term.
596	(ii)(A) If a contract under Subsection (8)(a)(viii) makes water available to the
597	purchasing party without regard to actual taking or use, the board may require
598	that the purchasing party give security for the payment to be made under the
599	contract, unless the contract requires the purchasing party to pay for certain
600	specified annual minimums.
601	(B) The security requirement under Subsection (8)(b)(ii)(A) in a contract with a
602	public entity may be met by including in the contract a provision for the public
603	entity's levy of a special assessment to make annual payments to the district.
604	Section 14. Section 51-7-15 is amended to read:
605	51-7-15. Crime insurance for state treasurer and other public treasurers
606	Reports to council.
607	(1)(a) The state treasurer, county, city, and town treasurers, the clerk or treasurer of
608	each school district, and other public treasurers that the council designates by rule
609	shall [be bonded or may procure crime or theft] obtain crime insurance as described in

610	Section 17-16-11 in an amount of not less than that established by the council.
611	(b) The council shall base the minimum [bond amount or crime or theft] crime insurance
612	coverage amount as described in Section 17-16-11 on the amount of public funds
613	normally in the treasurer's possession or control.
614	[(2)(a) When a public treasurer deposits or invests public funds as authorized by this
615	chapter, the public treasurer and the public treasurer's bondsmen or insurers are not
616	liable for any loss of public funds invested or deposited unless the loss is caused by the
617	malfeasance of the public treasurer or a member of the public treasurer's staff.]
618	[(b) A public treasurer and the public treasurer's bondsmen or insurers are liable for a loss
619	for any reason from deposits or investments not made in conformity with this chapter
620	and the rules of the council.]
621	[(3)] (2)(a) A public treasurer shall file a written report with the council on or before
622	January 31 and July 31 of each year.
623	(b) The report shall contain:
624	(i) the information about the deposits and investments of that public treasurer during
625	the preceding six months ending December 31 and June 30, respectively, that the
626	council requires by rule; and
627	(ii) information detailing the nature and extent of interest rate contracts permitted by
628	Subsection 51-7-17(3).
629	(c) A public treasurer shall make copies of the report available to the public at the public
630	treasurer's office during normal business hours.
631	Section 15. Section 52-1-1 is amended to read:
632	52-1-1. Crime insurance to run to state, county, municipality, or other agency.
633	If a public officer is required to [give a bond] obtain crime insurance but the
634	requirement does not [prescribe to whom the bond is to be made, the bond shall be made to]
635	specify the beneficiary of the insurance policy, the policy shall specify the beneficiary as:
636	(1) the state, if the public officer is a state officer;
637	(2) the county, if the public officer is a county, precinct, or district officer;
638	(3) the city or town, if the public officer is a municipal officer; or
639	(4) the board of education, if the public officer is a school officer.
640	Section 16. Section 52-1-2 is amended to read:
641	52-1-2. Crime insurance in favor of state Approval and recording Filing of
642	oaths.
643	(1) Unless otherwise provided in statute, if a state officer or an official of a state institution

644	is required to [give an official bond to] obtain crime insurance in favor of the state, the
645	state officer or executive director of the state institution shall:
646	(a) ensure that the [bond is provided] crime insurance policy is obtained as required by
647	statute; and
648	(b) keep [the bond] proof of insurance on file at the administrative office of the:
649	(i) state officer or the state institution; or
650	(ii) Division of Risk Management.
651	(2) A state official shall file the state official's oath of office with the Division of Archives
652	and Records Service created under Section 63A-12-101.
653	Section 17. Section 52-1-3 is amended to read:
654	52-1-3. County, precinct, and district officers Where filed.
655	Official oaths and [bonds of] proof of crime insurance relating to county, precinct
656	and district officers shall be filed with the county clerk, except those of the county clerk which
657	shall be filed with the county treasurer.
658	Section 18. Section 52-1-4 is amended to read:
659	52-1-4 . City officers Where filed.
660	Official oaths and [bonds of] proof of crime insurance relating to city officers
661	shall be filed with the city recorder, except those of the city recorder which shall be filed with
662	the city treasurer.
663	Section 19. Section 52-1-5 is amended to read:
664	52-1-5 . Town officers Where filed.
665	Official oaths and [bonds of] proof of crime insurance relating to town officers
666	shall be filed with the town clerk, except those of the town clerk which shall be filed with the
667	town treasurer.
668	Section 20. Section 52-1-6 is amended to read:
669	52-1-6 . School district officers Where filed.
670	Official oaths and [bonds of] proof of crime insurance relating to school district
671	officers shall be filed with the clerk of the board of education, except those of the clerk which
672	shall be filed with the treasurer of the board of education.
673	Section 21. Section 52-1-10 is amended to read:
674	52-1-10. Duties imposed by subsequent laws to be covered by crime insurance.
675	[The bonds] To the extent possible, crime insurance of all civil officers shall also
676	cover duties required by laws passed subsequent to [-giving them. No bond shall be void for
677	failure to comply with the law as to matters of form, but it shall be valid as to all matters

678	contained therein, if it complies substantially with the law] taking office.
679	Section 22. Section 52-1-13 is repealed and reenacted to read:
680	52-1-13 . Crime insurance as substitute for surety bond Requirements
681	Failure to obtain and maintain crime insurance.
682	(1) In all cases where a bond is required of a public officer in this state to ensure against
683	malfeasance or misfeasance in office, crime insurance shall instead be obtained.
684	(2) Crime insurance and the amount of coverage required is subject to approval as provided
685	by law.
686	(3) The several boards, courts, or officers authorized by law to approve crime insurance
687	may require review and update of the insurance annually.
688	(4) Intentional failure to obtain and maintain required crime insurance is malfeasance in
689	office and may subject the officeholder to proceedings for removal from office.
690	Section 23. Section 52-2-1 is amended to read:
691	52-2-1. Time in which to qualify Failure Office declared vacant.
692	[(1)] When [any person duly] an individual elected or appointed to any office of the state or
693	any of [its] the state's political subdivisions, fails to qualify for the office within 60 days
694	after the date of the beginning of the term of office for which the [person was] individual
695	\underline{is} elected or appointed, the office is vacant and shall be filled as provided by law.
696	[(2) When a required bond of any officer of the state or of any of its political subdivisions
697	is canceled, revoked, annulled or otherwise becomes void or of no effect, without
698	another proper required bond being given so that continuance of the required bonded
699	protection is afforded, the office of the officer is vacant and shall be filled as provided
700	by law.]
701	Section 24. Section 59-2-314 is amended to read:
702	59-2-314. Penalty for failure to complete assessment book.
703	Any assessor who fails to complete and deliver the assessment book to the county
704	auditor within the time prescribed by law, or who fails to transmit the information required
705	under Section 59-2-313 to the commission, shall pay a civil penalty of \$1,000[, to be recovered
706	on the assessor's official bond, for the use of] to the county, or [deducted from salary by-]the
707	county legislative body may deduct the civil penalty from the assessor's salary.
708	Section 25. Section 59-2-315 is amended to read:
709	59-2-315 . Crime insurance Liability for willful failure or neglect of duty
710	Judgment.

(1) The assessor [and sureties are liable on the official bond for all taxes on property within

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712	the county which, through willful failure or neglect, is not assessed or which has been
713	willfully assessed at less than its fair market value] shall obtain crime insurance in
714	relation to the duties of the assessor, in an amount set by the county legislative body.
715	(2) The county attorney shall, upon showing of proper evidence and upon written demand
716	by the commission or the county [-]legislative body, commence and prosecute to
717	judgment an action [upon the assessor's bond for all taxes lost from] against the assessor
718	for willful failure or neglect in assessing property.
719	(3) If, during the trial of the action against the assessor, the value of the unassessed or
720	underassessed property is determined, the assessor is liable for the difference between
721	the amount of taxes collected and the amount of taxes which should have been collected
722	pursuant to law.
723	Section 26. Section 63G-7-805 is amended to read:
724	63G-7-805. Liability insurance Insurance for employees authorized.
725	[(1)(a)] (1) A governmental entity may insure any or all of its employees against liability, in
726	whole or in part, for injury or damage resulting from an act or omission occurring during
727	the performance of an employee's duties, within the scope of employment, or under
728	color of authority, regardless of whether [or not that] the governmental entity is immune
729	from suit for that act or omission.
730	[(b)] (2) [Any expenditure for that insurance] An expenditure for insurance described in
731	<u>Subsection (1)</u> is for a public purpose.
732	[(e) Under any contract or policy of insurance providing coverage on behalf of a
733	governmental entity or employee for any liability defined by this section, regardless of
734	the source of funding for the coverage, the insurer has no right to indemnification or
735	contribution from the governmental entity or its employee for any loss or liability
736	covered by the contract or policy.]
737	[(2) Any surety covering a governmental entity or its employee under any faithful
738	performance surety bond has no right to indemnification or contribution from the
739	governmental entity or its employee for any loss covered by that bond based on any act
740	or omission for which the governmental entity would be obligated to defend or
741	indemnify under the provisions of Section 63G-7-902.]
742	Section 27. Section 63H-7a-603 is amended to read:
743	63H-7a-603 . Financial officer Duties.
744	(1) The executive director shall appoint a financial officer for the Administrative Services
745	Division with the approval of the board.

- 746 (2) The financial officer shall be responsible for accounting for the authority, including:
- 747 (a) safekeeping and investment of public funds of the authority, including the funds 748 expended from the restricted accounts created in this chapter;
- 749 (b) the proper collection, deposit, disbursement, and management of the public funds of 750 the authority in accordance with Title 51, Chapter 7, State Money Management Act;
- 751 (c) having authority to sign all bills payable, notes, checks, drafts, warrants, or other 752 negotiable instruments in the absence of the executive director and the executive 753 director's designated employee;
- 754 (d) providing to the board and the executive director a statement of the condition of the 755 finances of the authority, at least annually and at such other times as shall be 756 requested by the board; and
- 757 (e) performing all other duties incident to the financial officer.
- 758 (3) The financial officer shall:
- 759 (a) [be bonded-] obtain crime insurance in an amount established by the State Money
 760 Management Council; and
- (b) file written reports with the State Money Management Council pursuant to Section
 51-7-15.
- Section 28. Section **67-4-10** is amended to read:
- **67-4-10** . Crime insurance.
- 765 (1) The state treasurer, within 30 days after taking office, shall [give to the state a

 766 surety-company bond] obtain crime insurance in a sum to be determined by the State

 767 Money Management Council.
- 768 (2) The state shall pay the premium of the [surety-company bond] <u>crime insurance</u>.
- Section 29. Section **67-4-11** is amended to read:
- 770 **67-4-11** . Delict of treasurer -- Duties of auditor and governor -- Suspension.
- 771 (1) The state auditor shall notify the governor if the state auditor examines the books of the state treasurer, and finds that:
- (a) the books do not correspond with the amount of funds on hand;
- (b) the books do not show the actual condition of the funds;
- 775 (c) money belonging to the state has been embezzled, diverted, or in any manner taken 776 from the treasury without authority of law; or
- 777 (d) the state treasurer has been guilty of negligence in keeping the books or in taking 778 care of the public money.
- 779 (2) Upon receipt of the notice, the governor shall:

780 (a) take possession of all books, money, papers, and other property belonging to the state 781 in the possession of the state treasurer; and

- (b) temporarily suspend the state treasurer from office.
- 783 (3)(a) The state auditor shall:

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- (i) examine the books, papers, and all matters connected with the office of the suspended state treasurer; and
- 786 (ii) notify the governor of the findings.
- (b) If, based upon the examination, the auditor concludes that the state treasurer has
 embezzled or converted to personal use the public money, or has been negligent in
 keeping the books, or in taking care of the public money, the governor shall appoint
 another person to replace the suspended state treasurer.
- 791 (c) The new state treasurer shall [execute an official bond] obtain crime insurance, and 792 enter upon the office of state treasurer, as provided by law.
- 793 (d) The governor shall report all of the acts done under this section to the Legislature.
- 794 (4) The new state treasurer shall hold office until the suspended state treasurer is restored or until [his] a successor is elected and qualified.
- 796 Section 30. Section **67-9-1** is amended to read:

797 **67-9-1 . Appointment -- Powers.**

- 798 (1) The state auditor, the state treasurer, the attorney general, and the superintendent of 799 public instruction may each appoint a deputy, who may, during the absence or disability 800 of the principal, perform all the duties pertaining to the office, except those required of 801 the principal as a member of any board.
 - (2) The principal shall be answerable for the neglect or misconduct in office of [his] the principal's deputy, and may require [from him a bond for his own security. The appointment of a deputy shall be in writing, and shall be revocable at the pleasure of the principal; and all such appointments and revocations shall be filed with the lieutenant governor.] the deputy to obtain crime insurance.
- 807 (3) The principal:
- 808 (a) shall, if the principal appoints a deputy:
 - (i) make the appointment in writing; and
- (ii) file the written appointment with the lieutenant governor;
- 811 (b) may revoke the appointment of the principal's deputy, at will, in writing; and
- 812 (c) shall, if the principal revokes appointment of a deputy, file the written revocation 813 with the lieutenant governor.

814	Section 31. Section 67-9-2 is amended to read:
815	67-9-2 . Crime insurance.
816	Where a deputy of any state officer is required to [give a bond to the state, the
817	deputy shall give a surety-company bond, and the premium therefor shall be paid by] obtain
818	crime insurance, the state shall pay the premium.
819	Section 32. Section 78B-2-310 is amended to read:
820	78B-2-310 . Actions against public officers Within six years.
821	An action by the state, [any] an agency, or a public corporation against [any] a
822	public officer for malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office or against [any surety
823	upon his official bond] a crime insurance policy in relation to the public officer's duties may be
824	brought within six years after the officer ceases to hold [his] the office.
825	Section 33. Repealer.
826	This bill repeals:
827	Section 52-1-12, Cost of bonds How paid.
828	Section 52-1-11, Bonds to cover special penalties and liabilities.
829	Section 52-1-9, Successive actions on official bonds.
830	Section 52-1-8, Official bonds Actions on Parties.
831	Section 52-1-7, Bonds to be deemed security.
832	Section 34. Effective Date.
833	This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.