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Inmate Amendments
 2025 GENERAL SESSION
 STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Stephanie Pitcher
 House Sponsor:

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3 **LONG TITLE**4 **General Description:**

5 This bill requires the Department of Corrections to provide an optional financial literacy
 6 class for inmates.

7 **Highlighted Provisions:**

8 This bill:

- 9 ▶ requires the Department of Corrections to provide an optional financial literacy class for
 10 inmates; and
 11 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

12 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

13 None

14 **Other Special Clauses:**

15 None

16 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

17 AMENDS:

18 **64-13-48**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 310

19

20 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*21 Section 1. Section **64-13-48** is amended to read:22 **64-13-48 . Educational and career-readiness programs.**

- 23 (1) The department shall, in accordance with Subsection 64-13-6(1)(c), ensure that
 24 appropriate evidence-based and evidence-informed educational or career-readiness
 25 programs are made available to an inmate as soon as practicable after the creation of the
 26 inmate's case action plan.
- 27 (2) The department shall provide incarcerated women with substantially equivalent
 28 educational and career-readiness opportunities as incarcerated men.
- 29 (3) Before an inmate begins an educational or career-readiness program, the department
 30 shall provide reasonable access to resources necessary for an inmate to apply for grants

- 31 or other available financial aid that may be available to pay for the inmate's program.
- 32 (4)(a) The department shall consider an inmate's current participation in an educational
33 or career-readiness program when the department makes a decision with regard to an
34 inmate's:
- 35 (i) transfer to another area or facility; or
 - 36 (ii) appropriate disciplinary sanction.
- 37 (b) When possible, the department shall use best efforts to allow an inmate to continue
38 the inmate's participation in an educational or career-readiness program while the
39 facility is under lockdown, quarantine, or a similar status.
- 40 (5)(a) The department shall maintain records on an inmate's educational progress,
41 including completed life skills, certifications, and credit- and non-credit-bearing
42 courses, made while the inmate is incarcerated.
- 43 (b) The department shall facilitate the transfer of information related to the inmate's
44 educational process upon the inmate's release, including the inmate's post-release
45 contact information and the records described in Subsection (5)(a), to:
- 46 (i) the inmate; or
 - 47 (ii) an entity that the inmate has authorized to receive the inmate's records or
48 post-release contact information, including an institution:
 - 49 (A) from which the inmate received educational instruction while the inmate was
50 incarcerated; or
 - 51 (B) at which the inmate plans to continue the inmate's post-incarceration
52 education.
- 53 (6) Beginning May 1, 2023, the department shall provide an annual report to the Higher
54 Education Appropriations Subcommittee regarding educational and career-readiness
55 programs for inmates, which shall include:
- 56 (a) the number of inmates who are participating in an educational or career-readiness
57 program, including an accredited postsecondary education program;
 - 58 (b) the percentage of inmates who are participating in an educational or career-readiness
59 program as compared to the total inmate population;
 - 60 (c) inmate program completion and graduation data, including the number of
61 completions and graduations in each educational or career-readiness program;
 - 62 (d) the potential effect of educational or career-readiness programs on recidivism, as
63 determined by a comparison of:
 - 64 (i) the total number of inmates who return to incarceration after a previous

- 65 incarceration; and
- 66 (ii) the number of inmates who return to incarceration after a previous incarceration
- 67 who participated in or completed an educational or career-readiness program;
- 68 (e) the number of inmates who were transferred to a different facility while currently
- 69 participating in an educational or career-readiness program, including the number of
- 70 inmates who were unable to continue a program after a transfer to a different facility;
- 71 and
- 72 (f) the department's:
- 73 (i) recommendation for resources that may increase inmates' access to and
- 74 participation in an educational or career-readiness program; and
- 75 (ii) estimate of how many additional inmates would participate in an educational or
- 76 career-readiness program if the resources were provided.
- 77 (7) The department shall:
- 78 (a) ensure that an inmate enrolled in an educational or career-readiness program has
- 79 access to modern technology determined by the provider of the program as necessary
- 80 for an inmate to participate in the program; and
- 81 (b) assist an inmate in applying for jobs within 30 days before the day on which the
- 82 inmate is released from the department's custody.
- 83 (8) The department may not offer training for an inmate to become a certified nursing
- 84 assistant certified by the Department of Health and Human Services.
- 85 (9)(a) The department shall provide inmates with the opportunity to take a financial
- 86 literacy class.
- 87 (b) The financial literacy class described in Subsection (9)(a) shall include instruction on
- 88 strategies for saving and managing money earned through employment, including
- 89 any employment during incarceration.
- 90 ~~[(9)]~~ (10) The department may make rules in accordance with Section 64-13-10 and Title
- 91 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to carry out the provisions of this
- 92 section.
- 93 Section 2. **Effective date.**
- 94 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.