

UTAH MARRIAGE COMMISSION Dedicated Credit History

Overview

The Utah Marriage Commission is funded through a “user-fee” model established by statute. The model authorizes county clerks who use an online marriage application system to assess \$20 in addition to other fees. The \$20 fee is waived for applicants who certify completion of premarital counseling or education. Relevant portions of HB55 2021 include:

- 74 (d) If a county operates an online marriage application system, the county clerk of that
75 county:
- 76 (i) may assess \$20 in addition to the other fees for a marriage license established under
77 this section;
- 78 (ii) except as provided in Subsection (2)(d)(iii), shall transmit \$20 from the marriage
79 license fee to the state treasurer for deposit annually as follows:
- 80 (A) the first \$400,000 shall accrue to the Utah Marriage Commission, created in
81 ~~[Section 62A-1-129]~~ Title 63M, Chapter 14, Utah Marriage Commission, as dedicated credits

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- 82 for the operation of the Utah Marriage Commission; and
- 83 (B) proceeds in excess of \$400,000 shall be deposited into the General Fund; and
- 84 (iii) may not transmit \$20 from the marriage license fee to the state treasurer under this
85 Subsection (2)(d) if both individuals seeking the marriage license certify that they have
86 completed premarital counseling or education in accordance with Section 30-1-34.
- 90 **30-1-34. Completion of counseling or education.**
- 91 (1) The county clerk of a county that operates an online marriage application system
92 and issues a marriage license to applicants who certify completion of premarital counseling or
93 education in accordance with Subsection (2) shall reduce the marriage license fee by \$20.

Marriage License Fee Revenue by Year

Fiscal Year	Total Revenue Collected	Authorized for UMC
FY22	\$187,140	\$187,140
FY23	\$202,760	\$202,760
FY24	\$428,849	\$400,000
FY25	\$485,395	\$400,000

Commission Duties

237 **63M-14-204. Commission duties.**

238 The commission shall:

239 (1) promote coalitions and collaborative efforts to uphold and encourage a strong and
240 healthy culture of strong and lasting marriages and stable families;

241 (2) contribute to greater awareness of the importance of marriage in an effort to reduce
242 divorce and unwed parenthood in the state;

243 (3) promote public policies that support marriage;

244 (4) promote programs and activities that educate individuals and couples on how to
245 achieve strong, successful, and lasting marriages, including promoting and assisting in the
246 offering of:

247 (a) events;

248 (b) classes and services, including those designed to promote strong, healthy, and
249 lasting marriages and prevent domestic violence;

250 (c) marriage and relationship education conferences for the public and professionals;
251 and

252 (d) enrichment seminars;

253 (5) actively promote measures designed to maintain and strengthen marriage, family,
254 and the relationships between spouses and parents and children;

255 (6) support volunteerism and private financial contributions and grants in partnership
256 with the commission and in support of the commission's purposes and activities for the benefit
257 of the state as provided in this section;

258 (7) regularly publicize information on premarital counseling and education services
259 available in the state that comply with Section [30-1-34](#);

260 (8) approve an online course meeting the requirements of Section [30-1-34](#); and

261 (9) for purposes of Section [30-1-34](#), recognize one or more national organizations that
262 certify family life educators.

Oversight

The host institution, currently Utah State University, manages the finances and day-to-day operations. Reports are submitted to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee. Relevant portions of HB55 2021 include:

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271 [63A-3-107.](#)

272 (2) Compensation and expenses of a commission member who is a legislator are
273 governed by Section [36-2-2](#) and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5, Legislative Compensation and
274 Expenses.

275 Section 13. Section **63M-14-206** is enacted to read:

276 **63M-14-206. Oversight -- Staff support -- Funding.**

277 (1) Utah State University shall:

278 (a) working in consultation with the commission, hire a coordinator to manage the
279 day-to-day operations of the commission;

280 (b) pay the salary of the coordinator and review the coordinator's performance;

281 (c) provide other staff support for the commission; and

282 (d) provide office space, furnishings, and supplies to the commission, the coordinator,
283 and support staff.

284 (2) Funding for the commission shall be dedicated credits from the \$20 marriage
285 license fee described in Section [17-16-21](#) and added funding sought by the commission from
286 private contributions and grants that support the duties of the commission described in Section
287 [63M-14-204.](#)

288 (3) Before November 1, 2024, and before November 1 of each third year after 2024,
289 the commission shall provide a written report to the Health and Human Services Interim
290 Committee regarding the commission's:

291 (a) initiatives and whether the initiatives could be accomplished by a private
292 organization; and

293 (b) funding sources, including the effectiveness and necessity of the marriage license
294 fee, described in Section [17-16-21](#), in providing commission funding.