

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING  
UNREINFORCED MASONRY BUILDINGS**

2008 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Larry B. Wiley**

Senate Sponsor: Fred J. Fife

---

---

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This joint resolution of the Legislature urges the Utah Seismic Safety Commission to inventory ~~§~~→ **public** ←~~§~~ unreinforced masonry buildings in Utah and recommend how to address the problem.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ urges the Utah Seismic Safety Commission to compile an inventory of ~~§~~→ **public** ←~~§~~ unreinforced masonry buildings in the state;
- ▶ urges the Commission to use the data to determine the extent of the problem in the state; and
- ▶ urges the Commission to recommend priorities to address the problem in a manner that will most effectively protect the lives, property, and economy of the state.

**Special Clauses:**

None

---

---

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

- WHEREAS, the state of Utah is susceptible to powerful, damaging earthquakes;
- WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has ranked Utah sixth in projected annualized earthquake loss in the United States;



28 WHEREAS, much of the existing ~~§~~→ **public** ←~~§~~ building stock within the state was  
28a constructed under  
29 codes and standards that did not recognize this hazard;

30 WHEREAS, more than 80% of the state's population is located in areas subject to large  
31 earthquakes;

32 WHEREAS, a major seismic event could result in catastrophic loss of life, property,  
33 and business in the state;

34 WHEREAS, one of the state's primary responsibilities is to safeguard the safety and  
35 welfare of its citizens;

36 WHEREAS, unreinforced masonry buildings are among the most dangerous structures  
37 in a strong earthquake;

38 WHEREAS, there is a large, but not quantified, inventory of ~~§~~→ **public** ←~~§~~ unreinforced  
38a masonry  
39 buildings in seismically active areas in the state; ~~§~~→ [and] ←~~§~~

40 WHEREAS, recognizing and anticipating future catastrophic events, and preparing to  
41 recover from them is in the best interests of the citizens and the state ~~§~~→ [∴] ; and

41a **WHEREAS, it is not intended that the state, a school district, a charter school, or their**  
41b **officers or employees would be liable for any injury or damage resulting from the exercise or**  
41c **performance of, or the failure to exercise or perform, an action related to a recommended**  
41d **priority made by the Utah Seismic Safety Commission under this resolution:** ←~~§~~

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Utah Seismic  
43 Safety Commission to compile an inventory of unreinforced masonry buildings so that the  
44 quantity and extent of the problem in Utah can be determined.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Utah Seismic Safety  
46 Commission to recommend priorities to address the problem in a manner that will most  
47 effectively protect the lives, property, and economy of the state.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah  
49 Seismic Safety Commission ~~§~~→ [and the Federal Emergency Management Agency] ←~~§~~ .

---

---

Legislative Review Note  
as of 1-21-08 10:47 AM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

---

---

**H.J.R. 7 - Joint Resolution Recognizing Unreinforced Masonry Buildings**

**Fiscal Note**

2008 General Session

State of Utah

---

---

**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

---

**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

---