

1 **JOINT RESOLUTION PROMOTING HEALTHY AND ENERGY**
2 **EFFICIENT SCHOOLS**

3 2011 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Chief Sponsor: Mark A. Wheatley**

6 Senate Sponsor: _____

8 **LONG TITLE**

9 **General Description:**

10 This joint resolution of the Legislature encourages the Utah State Board of Education
11 and Utah's school districts to promote more healthy and energy efficient schools in the
12 state.

13 **Highlighted Provisions:**

14 This resolution:

15 ▶ encourages the Utah Board of Education to consider the broader application of the
16 design and construction practices for more healthy and energy efficient schools,
17 both for new construction and major renovation projects undertaken with school
18 district funds; and

19 ▶ encourages school districts to consider seeking application for certification of green
20 schools under the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and
21 Environmental Design rating system (LEED), or certification under a comparable
22 system with requirements at least equivalent to the LEED Silver certification for
23 new or retrofit construction, or other building performance systems like the United
24 States Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR program.

25 **Special Clauses:**

26 None



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

29 WHEREAS, deteriorating school infrastructure and poor indoor environmental quality
30 threaten the health, well-being, and achievement of students and staff in the state's public
31 schools;

32 WHEREAS, current climate and energy challenges compound the structural and
33 resource deficiencies in many school districts in the state;

34 WHEREAS, green schools are schools that create a healthy environment that is
35 conducive to learning, while saving energy, resources, and money;

36 WHEREAS, green schools create an environment that supports student learning
37 through improvements in site selection, daylighting, indoor air quality, thermal comfort,
38 acoustics, and classroom design, all of which have an impact on a child's ability to learn and a
39 teacher's ability to teach;

40 WHEREAS, the benefits of superior air quality, a key emphasis of green schools, have
41 been linked to lower asthma rates, fewer allergies, reduced absenteeism, and increased teacher
42 retention rates;

43 WHEREAS, according to the United States Green Buildings Council, green schools
44 consume an average of 30% to 50% less energy compared to conventional schools;

45 WHEREAS, green schools cost less to operate, utilize durable materials, and greatly
46 reduce water and energy use, which generate significant cost savings;

47 WHEREAS, green schools provide an educational experience that transcends the
48 classroom by creating a host of opportunities for curriculum innovation and hands-on,
49 project-based learning in which the building itself becomes an interactive teaching tool;

50 WHEREAS, new schools currently under construction are on track to be among the
51 first energy net-zero, K-12 schools in the nation; and

52 WHEREAS, there are now 30 commitments for green schools working groups and
53 caucuses as a result of the United States Green Buildings Council's state legislative conference
54 in October 2009:

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah
56 encourages the Utah Board of Education to consider the broader application of the design and
57 construction practices for more healthy and energy efficient schools, both for new construction
58 and major renovation projects undertaken with school district funds.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages school districts to
60 consider seeking application for certification of green schools under the United States Green
61 Buildings Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system (LEED), or
62 certification under a comparable system with requirements at least equivalent to the LEED
63 Silver certification for new or retrofit construction, or other building performance systems like
64 the United States Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR program.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the United
66 States Department of Energy, to the United States Green Buildings Council, to the Utah State
67 Board of Education, and to the local school boards of the state's 41 school districts.

Legislative Review Note
as of 12-3-10 9:45 AM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

FISCAL NOTE

H.J.R. 3, 2011 General Session

SHORT TITLE: Joint Resolution Promoting Healthy and Energy Efficient Schools

SPONSOR: Wheatley, M.

STATE OF UTAH

STATE GOVERNMENT (UCA 36-12-13(2)(b))

Enactment of this bill likely will not materially impact the state budget.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCA 36-12-13(2)(c))

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

DIRECT EXPENDITURES BY UTAH RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES (UCA 36-12-13(2)(d))

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable expenditures by Utah residents or businesses.