### HB0356S02 compared with HB0356

{Omitted text} shows text that was in HB0356 but was omitted in HB0356S02 inserted text shows text that was not in HB0356 but was inserted into HB0356S02

DISCLAIMER: This document is provided to assist you in your comparison of the two bills. Sometimes this automated comparison will NOT be completely accurate. Therefore, you need to read the actual bills. This automatically generated document could contain inaccuracies caused by: limitations of the compare program; bad input data; or other causes.

**County Governance Amendments** 

2025 GENERAL SESSION STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jordan D. Teuscher

Senate Sponsor:

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3	LONG TITLE

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#### General Description:

This bill modifies provisions relating to forms of county government.

#### 6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

- 7 This bill:
  - {modifies provisions relating to changing forms of county government;}
  - **→ {eliminates the expanded county commission form of government;}**
- 8 defines terms;
  - {modifies the } provides that a county {commission} of the third through sixth class with a council-manager form of government {to specify that the commission may have three, five, or seven } must elect 65% of the county's council members to represent single voter districts;
- 12 <u>establishes a process for a county of the third through sixth class with a council-manager</u> form of government to create voter districts;
- representation 12 representation of a study committee formed to study changing the form of county government; and a study committee formed to study changing the form of county government; and a study committee formed to study changing the form of county government; and a study committee formed to study changing the form of county government; and a study committee formed to study changing the form of county government; and a study committee formed to study changing the study changing
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{enacts provisions for a study committee under a county legislative body motion for the establishment of a study committee; and}

15	<ul><li>makes technical and conforming changes.</li></ul>
17	Money Appropriated in this Bill:
18	None
19	Other Special Clauses:
20	None
22	AMENDS:
22	{17-31-8, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68, as last amended by Laws of
	Utah 2018, Chapter 68}
23	{17-36-10, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 288, as last amended by Laws of
	<del>Utah 2022, Chapter 288</del> }
24	{17-52a-103, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 47 and further amended by
	Revisor Instructions, Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 47, as last amended by Laws of Utah
	2020, Chapter 47 and further amended by Revisor Instructions, Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter
	<del>47}</del>
26	{17-52a-201, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68, as
	renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68}
23	17-52a-204, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 67, as last amended by Laws of
	Utah 2020, Chapter 67
27	{17-52a-301, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 47, as last amended by Laws
	of Utah 2020, Chapter 47}
28	{17-52a-302, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 47, as last amended by Laws
	of Utah 2020, Chapter 47}
29	{17-52a-303, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 116, as last amended by Laws
	of Utah 2023, Chapter 116}
24	17-52a-403, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 47, as last amended by Laws of Utah
	2020, Chapter 47
25	17-52a-404, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 47, as last amended by Laws of Utah
	2020, Chapter 47
32	

	{17-52a-405, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 47, as last amended by Laws
	of Utah 2020, Chapter 47}
33	{17-52a-504, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68, as
	renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68}
34	{17-53-101, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68, as last amended by Laws of
	Utah 2018, Chapter 68}
35	{17-53-317, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 209, as last amended by Laws
	of Utah 2011, Chapter 209}
	ENACTS:
37	{17-52a-403.5, Utah Code Annotated 1953, Utah Code Annotated 1953}
	REPEALS:
39	{17-52a-202, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68, as
	renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68}
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27	Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
42	{Section 1. Section 17-31-8 is amended to read: }
43	17-31-8. Tourism tax advisory boards.
44	(1)
	(a) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(b), any county that collects the following taxes shall operate a
	tourism tax advisory board:
46	(i) the tax allowed under Section 59-12-301; or
47	(ii) the tax allowed under Section 59-12-603.
48	(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(a), a county is exempt from Subsection (1)(a) if the county has an
	existing board, council, committee, convention visitor's bureau, or body that substantially conforms
	with Subsections (2), (3), and (4).
51	(2) A tourism tax advisory board created under Subsection (1) shall consist of at least five members.
53	(3) A tourism tax advisory board shall be composed of the following members that are residents of the
	county:
55	(a) a majority of the members shall be current employees of entities in the county that are subject to the

taxes referred to in Section 59-12-301 or 59-12-603; and

- (b) the balance of the board's membership shall be employees of recreational facilities, convention facilities, museums, cultural attractions, or other tourism related industries located within the county.
- 60 (4)
  - (a) Each tourism tax advisory board shall advise the county legislative body on the best use of revenues collected from the tax allowed under Section 59-12-301 by providing the legislative body with a priority listing for proposed expenditures based on projected available tax revenues supplied to the board by the county legislative body on an annual basis.
- (b) Each tourism tax advisory board in a county operating under the county commission form of government under Section 17-52a-201 [or the expanded county commission form under Section 17-52a-202] shall advise the county legislative body on the best use of revenues collected from the tax allowed under Section 59-12-603 by providing the legislative body with a priority listing for proposed expenditures based on projected available tax revenues supplied to the board by the county legislative body on an annual basis.
- 72 (5) A member of any county tourism tax advisory board:
- (a) may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's services; and
- 74 (b) may receive per diem and travel expenses incurred in the performance of the member's official duties, in accordance with Section 11-55-103.
- 76 {Section 2. Section 17-36-10 is amended to read: }
- 77 **17-36-10.** Preparation of tentative budget.
- 78 (1)
  - (a) On or before the first day of the next to last month of every fiscal period, the finance officer shall prepare for the next budget period and file with the governing body a tentative budget for each fund for which a budget is required.
- (b) During the preparation of a tentative budget described in Subsection (1)(a), the following may participate in the creation of the tentative budget:
- 83 (i) for a county commission [or expanded county commission-]form of county government, the county commission;
- 85 (ii) for a county executive-council form of county government, the county council and the county executive; and
- 87 (iii) for a council-manager form of county government, the county council and the county manager.

89	(2)
	(a) A department for which county funds are appropriated shall file with the finance officer not less that
	three months before the commencement of each fiscal year on forms furnished by the finance office
	a detailed estimate and statement of the revenue and necessary expenditures of the department for
	the next budget year.
93	(b) The estimate and statement described in Subsection (2)(a) shall set forth:
94	(i) the number of persons to be regularly employed;
95	(ii) the kinds of service the department will perform;
96	(iii) the salaries and wages the department expects to pay;
97	(iv) the kind of work the department will perform and the improvements the department expects to
	make; and
99	(v) the estimated cost of the service, work, and improvements.
100	(c) The finance officer shall make the estimate and statement described in Subsection (2)(a) available
	to:
102	(i) for a county commission [or expanded county commission ]form of county government, the county
	commission;
104	(ii) for a county executive-council form of county government, the county council and the county
	executive; and
106	(iii) for a council-manager form of county government, the county council and the county manager.
108	(d) The statement shall also record performance data expressed in work units, unit costs,
	[man] personnel hours, and [man] personnel years sufficient in detail, content, and scope to permit
	the finance officer to prepare and process the county budget.
111	(3) In the preparation of the budget, the finance officer and all other county officers are subject to
	Sections 17-36-1 through 17-36-44 and to the uniform system of budgeting, accounting, and
	reporting established therein.
114	(4) In the tentative budget, the finance officer shall set forth in tabular form:
115	(a) actual revenues and expenditures in the last completed fiscal period;
116	(b) estimated total revenues and expenditures for the current fiscal period;
117	(c) the estimated available revenues and expenditures for the ensuing budget period computed by
	determining:
119	(i) the estimated expenditure for each fund after review of each departmental budget request; and

121 (ii) the total revenue requirements of the fund, including: 122 (A) the part of the total revenue that will be derived from revenue sources other than property tax; and 124 (B) the part of the total revenue that will be derived from property taxes; and 125 (d) if required by the governing body, actual performance experience to the extent available in work units, unit costs, [man] personnel hours, and [man] personnel years for each budgeted fund that includes an appropriation for salaries or wages for the last completed fiscal period and the first eight months of the current fiscal period if the county is on an annual fiscal period, or the first 20 months of the current fiscal period if the county is on a biennial fiscal period, together with the total estimated performance data of like character for the current fiscal period and for the ensuing budget period. 133 (5) The finance officer may recommend modification of any departmental budget request under Subsection (4)(c)(i) before the budget request is filed with the governing body, if each department head has been given an opportunity to be heard concerning the modification. 137 (6) (a) A tentative budget shall contain the estimates of expenditures submitted by any department together with specific work programs and other supportive data as the governing body requests. 140 (b) The finance officer shall include with the tentative budget a supplementary estimate of all capital projects or planned capital projects within the budget period and within the next three succeeding years. 143 (7)(a) A finance officer that submits a tentative budget in a county with a population of more than 25,000 shall include with the tentative budget a budget message in explanation of the budget. 146 (b) The budget message shall: 147 (i) include an outline of the proposed financial policies of the county for the budget period; 149 (ii) describe the important features of the budgetary plan; 150 (iii) state the reasons for changes from the previous fiscal period in appropriation and revenue items; and 152 (iv) explain any major changes in financial policy. 153 (c) A finance officer of a county with a population of less than 25,000 may prepare a budget message in explanation of the tentative budget.

(8)

	(a) The governing body shall review, consider, and adopt a tentative budget in a regular or special
	meeting called for that purpose.
157	(b)
	(i) Subject to Subsection (8)(b)(ii), the governing body may thereafter amend or revise the tentative
	budget prior to public hearings on the tentative budget.
159	(ii) A governing body may not:
160	(A) reduce below the required minimum an appropriation required for debt retirement and interest; or
162	(B) reduce, in accordance with Section 17-36-17, an existing deficit.
163	{Section 3. Section 17-52a-103 is amended to read: }
164	17-52a-103. Forms of county government County commission form required unless
	another is adopted Restrictions on form of county government.
166	(1) Subject to Subsection (2), each county shall operate under one of the following forms of county
	government:
168	(a) the county commission form under Section 17-52a-201;
169	[(b) the expanded county commission form under Section 17-52a-202;]
170	[(e)] (b) the county executive and council form under Section 17-52a-203; or
171	[ <del>(d)</del> ] <u>(c)</u> the council-manager form under Section 17-52a-204.
172	(2) Unless a county adopts another form of government as provided in this chapter, the county shall
	operate under the county commission form of government under Section 17-52a-201.
175	[ <del>(3)</del>
	(a) In a county that operates under a form of government that is not described in Subsection (2):]
177	[(i) the county's legislative body shall, before July 1, 2018, initiate the process under Section
	17-52a-302 of changing the county's form of government;]
179	[(ii) the county shall hold a special election on November 6, 2018;]
180	[(iii) if the voters approve the appointment of a study committee at the special election described in
	Subsection (3)(a)(ii):]
182	[(A) the study committee may not recommend under Section 17-52a-403 that the county retain the
	county's current form of government; and]
184	[(B) the county shall hold an election described in Section 17-52a-501 before December 31, 2020, on an
	optional plan that the study committee creates; and]
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	[(iv) the registered voters of the county may not repeal an optional plan under Section 17-52a-505
	that is adopted at an election described in Subsection (3)(a)(iii)(B).]
188	[(b) If the voters of a county described in Subsection (3)(a) do not approve a change in the county's
	form of government at an election described in Subsection (3)(a)(iii)(B) before December 31, 2020:
191	(i) the county shall operate under the county commission form of government under Section
	<del>17-52a-201; and</del> ]
193	[(ii) the county shall transition to the form of government described in Subsection (3)(b)(i) in the same
	manner as if the voters of the county had approved the change in the form of government described
	in Subsection (3)(b)(i) in the applicable election described in Subsection (3)(b).]
197	[(4)] (3) In a county of the fifth or sixth class, if the county legislative body under Section 17-52a-302
	or the registered voters under Section 17-52a-303, after March 24, 2020, initiate the process to adop
	an optional plan, the proposed optional plan may only propose a form of government authorized
	under Section 17-52a-405.
201	{Section 4. Section 17-52a-201 is amended to read: }
202	17-52a-201. County commission form of government Commission member elections.
204	(1) As used in this section:
205	(a) "Commission-form county" means a county operating under the county commission form of
	government.
206	[(a)] (b) "Midterm vacancy" means a county commission position that is being filled at an election for
	less than the position's full term as established in:
208	(i) Subsection $[\frac{(4)(a)}{(5)(a)}]$ ; or
209	(ii) a county's optional plan under Subsection 17-52a-404(5)(b).
210	[(b)] (c) "Open position" means a county commission position that is being filled at a regular general
	election for the position's full term as established in:
212	(i) Subsection $[\frac{(4)(a)}{(5)(a)}]$ ; or
213	(ii) a county's optional plan under Subsection 17-52a-404(5)(b).
214	[(e)] (d) "Opt-in county" means a commission-form county that has, in accordance with Subsection
	[(6)(a)] (7)(a), chosen to conduct county commissioner elections in accordance with Subsection
	[ <del>(6)</del> ] <u>(7)</u> .
217	(2) A county commission [consisting of three members-]shall govern each county operating under the
	county commission form of government

219	(3)
	(a) The number of county commission members in a commission-form county is three, unless the
	county commission by ordinance changes the number to five or seven.
222	<u>(b)</u>
	(i) Subject to Subsection (3)(b)(ii), the legislative body of a commission-form county may by
	ordinance provide for one or more commission members to be elected at large and for one or more
	commission members to be elected by district.
225	(ii) At least a majority of the members of a five-member or seven-member commission in a
	commission-form county shall be elected by district.
227	[(3)] (4) A county commission under a county commission form of government is both the county
	legislative body and the county executive and has the powers, duties, and functions of a county
	legislative body under Chapter 53, Part 2, County Legislative Body, and the powers, duties, and
	functions of a county executive under Chapter 53, Part 3, County Executive.
232	[(4)] (5) Except as otherwise provided in an optional plan adopted under this chapter:
233	(a) the term of office of each county commission member is four years;
234	(b) the terms of county commission members shall be staggered so that [two] approximately half the
	members are elected at [a] alternating regular general election [date that alternates with the regular
	general election date of the other member] dates; and
238	(c) each county commission member shall be elected:
239	(i) at large, unless otherwise required by court order; and
240	(ii) subject to the provisions of this section, in accordance with Title 20A, Election Code.
242	[(5)] (6) Except as provided in Subsection [(6)] (7):
243	(a) if [two] multiple at-large county commission positions are vacant for an election, the positions
	shall be designated "county commission seat A," [and] "county commission seat B," and so on as
	necessary for the number of vacant positions;
246	(b) each candidate who files a declaration of candidacy when [two] multiple at-large positions are
	vacant shall designate on the declaration of candidacy form [whether the candidate is a candidate for
	seat A or seat B] the letter of the county commission seat for which the candidate is a candidate; and
250	(c) no person may file a declaration of candidacy for, be a candidate for, or be elected to two county
	commission positions in the same election.
252	[ <del>(6)</del> ] <u>(7)</u>

(a)	A commission-form county of the first or second class may, through an optional plan as described
	in Subsection 17-52a-404(5) or by ordinance, choose to conduct county commissioner elections in
	accordance with this Subsection $[(6)]$ $(7)$ .
(b)	When issuing the notice of election required by Subsection 20A-5-101(2), the clerk of an opt-in
	county shall, if there is at least one open position and at least one midterm vacancy, designate:
(i)	each open position as "open position"; and
(ii)	each midterm vacancy as "midterm vacancy."
(c)	An individual who files a declaration of candidacy for the office of county commissioner in an opt-
	in county:
(i)	if there is more than one open position, is not required to indicate which open position the individual
	is running for;
(ii)	if there is at least one open position and at least one midterm vacancy, shall designate on the
	declaration of candidacy whether the individual is filing for an open position or a midterm vacancy
	and
(iii)	) may not file a declaration of candidacy for an open position and a midterm vacancy in the same
	election.
(d)	If there is an open position and a midterm vacancy being voted upon in the same election in an opt-
	in county, the county clerk shall indicate on the ballot for the election which positions are open
	positions and which positions are midterm vacancies.
(e)	In an opt-in county:
(i)	the candidates for open positions, in a number equal to the number of open positions, who receive
	the highest number of votes are:
(A)	for the purposes of a regular primary election, nominated by the candidates' party for the open
	positions; and
(B)	for the purposes of a regular general election, elected to fill the open positions; and
(ii)	the candidates for midterm vacancies, in a number equal to the number of midterm vacancies, who
	receive the highest number of votes are:
(A)	for the purposes of a regular primary election, nominated by the candidates' party for the midterm
	vacancies; and

Section 1. Section 17-52a-204 is amended to read:

(B) for the purposes of a regular general election, elected to fill the midterm vacancies.

29	17-52a-204. Council-manager form of county government Establishment of voting
	districts.
31	(1) As used in this section, "district" means a geographic area within the boundaries of a county with
	a council-manager form of government that is represented only by one council member who is a
	resident of the area.
34	[ <del>(1)</del> ] <u>(2)</u>
	(a) The following shall govern a county operating under the form of government known as the "council-
	manager" form:
36	(i) an elected county council;
37	(ii) a county manager appointed by the council; and
38	(iii) other officers and employees authorized by law.
39	(b) The optional plan shall provide for the qualifications, time and manner of appointment subject
	to Subsections $[(6)]$ $(7)$ and $[(7)]$ $(8)$ , term of office, compensation, and removal of the county
	manager.
42	[(2)] (3) The county manager is the administrative head of the county government and has the powers,
	functions, and duties of a county executive, except:
44	(a) as the county legislative body otherwise provides by ordinance; and
45	(b) that the county manager may not veto any ordinances enacted by the council.
46	[ <del>(3)</del> ] <u>(4)</u>
	(a) An individual member of the council may not directly or indirectly, by suggestion or otherwise:
48	(i) attempt to influence or coerce the manager in:
49	(A) making any appointment;
50	(B) removing any officer or employee; or
51	(C) purchasing supplies;
52	(ii) attempt to exact any promise relative to any appointment from any candidate for manager; or
54	(iii) discuss directly or indirectly with the manager the matter of specific appointments to any
	county office or employment.
56	(b)
	(i) A member of the county council who violates the provisions of this Subsection [(3)] (4) shall forfeit
	the member's county council office.

- (ii) Nothing in this section shall be construed, however, as prohibiting the council from fully and freely discussing with or suggesting to the manager anything pertaining to county affairs or the interests of the county.
- 61 (iii) The county manager may not take part in securing, or contributing any money toward, the nomination or election of any candidate for a county office.
- (iv) The optional plan may provide procedures for implementing this Subsection [(3)] (4).
- [(4)] (5) In the council-manager form of county government:
- (a) the legislative powers of the county are vested in the county council; and
- (b) the executive powers of the county are vested in the county manager.
- [(5)] (6) A reference in statute or state rule to the "governing body" or the "board of county commissioners" of the county, in the council-manager form of county government, means:
- 71 (a) the county council, with respect to legislative functions, duties, and powers; and
- 72 (b) the county manager, with respect to executive functions, duties, and powers.
- 73 [<del>(6)</del>] <u>(7)</u>
  - (a) As used in this Subsection [(6)] (7), "interim vacancy period" means the period of time that:
- 75 (i) begins on the day on which a general election described in Section 17-16-6 is held to elect a council member; and
- (ii) ends on the day on which the council member-elect begins the council member's term.
- 79 (b)
  - (i) The county council may not appoint a county manager during an interim vacancy period.
- 81 (ii) Notwithstanding Subsection [(6)(b)(i)] (7)(b)(i):
- (A) the county council may appoint an interim county manager during an interim vacancy period; and
- (B) the interim county manager's term shall expire once a new county manager is appointed by the new administration after the interim vacancy period has ended.
- (c) Subsection [<del>(6)(b)</del>] (7)(b) does not apply if all the county council members who held office on the day of the county general election whose term of office was vacant for the election are re-elected to the council for the following term.
- [(7)] (8) A county council that appoints a county manager in accordance with this section may not[, on or after May 10, 2011,] enter into an employment contract that contains an automatic renewal provision with the county manager.

	(9) Except as provided in Subsection (10), a county of the third through sixth class with a council-
	manager form of government shall ensure that at least 65% of council members:
94	(a) each represent a single district, rather than being elected at large;
95	(b) are elected by a majority vote of voters residing within the member's district; and
96	(c) are each a resident of the district the council member represents.
97	(10) A county of the third through sixth class with a council-manager form of government may
	maintain the county's election structure if, on and after May 7, 2025, at least 50% of the county's
	council members:
100	(a) each represent a single district, rather than being elected at large;
101	(b) were elected by a majority vote of voters residing within the member's district; and
102	(c) are each a resident of the district the council member represents.
103	<u>(11)</u>
	(a) For a county with a council-manager form of government that, on May 7, 2025, does not meet the
	requirements described in Subsection (9) or (10), the county council shall, on or before June 1,
	<u>2025:</u>
106	(i) in accordance with Subsection (11)(b), establish a county districting commission; and
108	(ii) in accordance with Subsection (11)(c), approve a map of the county council districts.
110	(b)
	(i) A county council shall comply with Subsection (11)(a)(i) by establishing a county districting
	commission, consisting of:
112	(A) one representative from each municipality in the county, who is either the municipality's mayor
	or a resident appointed by that mayor;
114	(B) one representative who resides in an unincorporated area of the county, appointed by the county
	council; and
116	(C) the county clerk, or the county clerk's designee, as a non-voting member.
117	(ii) The county districting commission shall determine the number of council positions to be
	represented by districts and the number to be represented at-large, ensuring that at least 65% of
	positions are represented by districts.
120	(iii) The county districting commission shall divide the county into districts by:
121	(A) relying on the total population enumeration of the most recent decennial census;
123	(B) ensuring that between districts, there is less than 10% total population deviation;

125	(C) ensuring that each district is contiguous and reasonably compact;
126	(D) ensuring that district boundaries do not divide existing voter precincts; and
127	(E) complying with the United States Constitution.
128	(iv) The county districting commission shall submit a proposed map of district boundaries to the county
	council for approval for the initial districting process, on or before October 1, 2025.
131	(v) The county manager shall provide for the county districting commission:
132	(A) county staff for assistance; and
133	(B) suitable meeting facilities.
134	(c) After receiving the district map described in Subsection (11)(b)(iv), the county council shall, within
	30 calendar days after the day on which the county council receives the map, hold a public hearing,
	at which:
137	(i) the county council shall approve the district map; and
138	(ii) the county clerk shall:
139	(A) for each district, designate, by lot, a current county council member to represent that district for the
	remainder of the council member's term of office, regardless of whether the council member is a
	resident of that district; and
142	(B) designate any council member not selected to represent a district under Subsection (11)(c)(ii)(A) as
	an at-large council member for the remainder of that council member's term of office.
145	(12) After the adoption of a district map under Subsection (11)(c)(i), at an election in which a county
	council position representing an individual district is subject to an election:
147	(a) each candidate for that position must reside in the district that the position represents; and
149	(b) the council member for the district shall be elected by a majority vote of voters residing in the
	<u>district.</u>
151	<u>(13)</u>
	(a) After creating districts and adopting a district map under Subsections (11) and (12), a county
	described in Subsection (11) may not redistrict until an official decennial census publicly releases
	population data for the county, unless otherwise required by law.
155	(b) Each time a county described in Subsection (11) conducts redistricting for the county council
	districts, the county council shall redistrict by:
157	(i) adjusting districts in accordance with Subsections (11)(b)(iii)(A), (B), (C), and (E); and

	<u>(ii)</u>	after drawing a proposed map of district boundaries, holding a public hearing, at which the county
		council shall approve the map as proposed, or revise the map and approve the revised map.
286		{Section 5. Section 17-52a-301 is amended to read: }
287		17-52a-301. Procedure for initiating adoption of optional plan Limitations Pending
	pro	oceedings.
289	(1)	An optional plan proposing an alternate form of government for a county may be adopted as
		provided in this chapter.
291	(2)	The process to adopt an optional plan establishing an alternate form of county government may be
		initiated by:
293	(a)	the county legislative body as provided in Section 17-52a-302; or
294	(b)	registered voters of the county as provided in Section 17-52a-303.
295	(3)	
	(a)	If the process to adopt an optional plan is initiated under Laws of Utah 1973, Chapter 26, Section
		3, 4, or 5, or Section 17-52a-302 or 17-52a-303, the county legislative body may not initiate the
		process again under Section 17-52a-302, and registered voters may not initiate the process again
		under Section 17-52a-303, until:
299		(i) the first initiated process concludes with an election under Section 17-52a-501;
300		(ii) the first initiated process concludes under Subsection 17-52a-403(7) because the study
		committee recommended that the county's form of government not change; or
303		(iii) the first initiated process concludes because registered voters fail to submit a sufficient number
		of valid signatures for a petition before the deadline described in Subsection 17-52a-303(2)(c).
306	(b)	A county legislative body may not initiate the process to adopt an optional plan under Section
		17-52a-302 within four years [of] after an election at which voters first elect elected county
		officials:
309	<u>(i)</u>	in accordance with Section 17-52a-503; and
310	(ii)	[-]as specified in an optional plan proposed as a result of a process initiated by the county legislative
		body.
312	(c)	Registered voters of a county may not initiate the process to adopt an optional plan under Section
		17-52a-303 within four years [of] after an election at which voters first elect elected county
		officials:
315	<u>(i)</u>	in accordance with Section 17-52a-503; and

316	(ii) [-] as specified in an optional plan proposed as a result of a process initiated by registered voters.				
318	{Section 6. Section 17-52a-302 is amended to read: }				
319	17-52a-302. County legislative body initiation of adoption of optional plan Procedure.				
321	(1)				
	(a) A county legislative body may [only-]initiate the process of adopting an optional plan by:				
323	(i) approving a motion to establish a study committee, as provided in Section 17-52a-403.5, to study changing the form of government; and				
325	(ii) after the county legislative body's receipt of the study committee's report under Section				
	17-52a-403.5, adopting a resolution to submit to the voters the question of whether the county				
	should adopt [an] the optional plan [proposed by the study committee described in Subsection				
	(1)(a)(i)] formulated by the county legislative body.				
330	(b) The county legislative body may not submit to the voters an optional plan unless the optional plan				
	complies with the requirements of Sections 17-52a-404 and 17-52a-405.				
332	(2)				
	(a) [No] For a county operating under the county executive-council form of county government, no				
	later than 10 days after the day on which the county legislative body approves a motion as described				
	in Subsection (1)(a)(i), the county legislative body shall notify the county executive of the county				
	legislative body's approval to establish a study committee.				
337	(b) No later than 10 days after the day on which the county legislative body adopts a resolution as				
	described in Subsection (1)(a)(ii), the legislative body shall send a copy of the optional plan that the				
	legislative body recommends to:				
340	(i) the county clerk; and				
341	(ii) the county attorney for review in accordance with Section 17-52a-406.				
342	{Section 7. Section 17-52a-303 is amended to read: }				
343	17-52a-303. Registered voter initiation of adoption of optional plan Certification of				
	petition signatures Removal of signature Procedure.				
345	(1)				
	(a) Registered voters of a county may initiate the process of adopting an optional plan by filing with the				
	county clerk a notice of intent to gather signatures for a petition:				
347	(i) for the establishment of a study committee described in Section 17-52a-403; or				
348	(ii) to adopt an optional plan that:				

349	(A) accompanies the petition during the signature gathering process and accompanies the petition in the				
5.17	submission to the county clerk under Subsection (2)(b); and				
352	(B) complies with the requirements described in Sections 17-52a-404 and 17-52a-405.				
354					
355	(b) A notice of intent described in Subsection (1)(a) shall:				
356	<ul><li>(i) designate five sponsors for the petition;</li><li>(ii) designate a contact sponsor to serve as the primary contact for the petition sponsors;</li></ul>				
358	(iii) list the mailing address and telephone number of each of the sponsors; and				
359	(iv) be signed by each of the petition sponsors.				
360	(c) Registered voters of a county may not file a notice of intent to gather signatures in bad faith.				
362					
	(a) The sponsors of a petition may circulate the petition after filing a notice of intent to gather				
	signatures under Subsection (1).				
364	(b)				
	(i) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b)(ii), the petition is valid if the petition contains the number of				
	legal signatures required under Subsection 20A-7-501(2).				
366	(ii) For a county of the fifth or sixth class, the petition is valid if the petition contains at least the				
	number of legal signatures equal to 30% of the number of active voters, as defined in Section				
	20A-7-501, in the county.				
369	(iii) The county clerk may not count a signature that was collected for the petition before the petition				
	sponsors filed a notice of intent under Subsection (1)(a).				
371	(iv) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual may not sign a petition circulated under				
	this section by electronic signature as defined in Section 20A-1-202.				
374	(c) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(b)(ii), the sponsors of the petition shall submit the completed				
	petition and any amended or supplemental petition described in Subsection (4) with the county clerk				
	not more than 180 days after the day on which the sponsors file the notice described in Subsection				
	(1).				
378	(d)				
	(i) Within 30 days after the day on which the sponsors submit a petition, the sponsors shall submit				
	financial disclosures to the county clerk that include:				
380	(A) a list of each contribution received by the sponsors and the name of the donor; and				
382					

	(B) a list of each expenditure for purposes of furthering or sponsoring the petition and the recipient
	of each expenditure.
384	(ii) The county clerk shall publish the financial disclosures described in Subsection (2)(d)(i).
386	(iii) All sponsors of a petition shall date and sign each list described in Subsection (2)(d)(i).
388	(3) Within 30 days after the day on which the sponsors submit a petition under Subsection (2)(c) or an
	amended or supplemental petition under Subsection (4), the county clerk shall:
391	(a)
	(i) use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to determine whether a signer is a registered
	voter; and
393	(ii) determine whether the petition or amended or supplemental petition has been signed by the required
	number of registered voters;
395	(b)
	(i) if the petition was signed by a sufficient number of registered voters:
396	(A) certify the petition;
397	(B) deliver the petition to the county legislative body and, if the county has a county executive
	separate from the county legislative body, the county executive; and
400	(C) notify the contact sponsor in writing of the certification; or
401	(ii) if the petition was not signed by a sufficient number of registered voters:
402	(A) reject the petition; and
403	(B) notify the county legislative body and the contact sponsor in writing of the rejection and the reasons
	for the rejection; and
405	(c) for a petition described in Subsection (1)(a)(ii), no later than 10 days after the day on which the
	county clerk certifies the petition under Subsection (3)(b)(i), [the county clerk shall-]send a copy of
	the optional plan that accompanied the petition to the county attorney for review in accordance with
	Section 17-52a-406.
409	(4) The sponsors of a petition circulated under this section may submit supplemental signatures for the
	petition:
411	(a) if the county clerk rejects the petition under Subsection (3)(b)(ii); and
412	(b) before the earlier of:
413	(i) the deadline described in Subsection (2)(c); or
414	(ii) 20 days after the day on which the county clerk rejects the petition under Subsection (3)(b)(ii).

416	(5)	With the unanimous approval of petition sponsors, a petition filed under this section may be withdrawn at any time within 90 days after the day on which the county clerk certifies the petition under Subsection (3)(b)(i) and no later than 45 days before an election under Section 17-52a-501 in the petition included a notification to petition signers, in conspicuous language and in a conspicuous location, that the petition sponsors are authorized to withdraw the petition.
422	(6)	
	(a)	A voter who signs a petition under this section may have the voter's signature removed from the
		petition by, no later than three business days after the day on which the sponsors submit the petitio
		to the county clerk, submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature
		be removed.
426	(b)	A statement described in Subsection (6)(a) shall comply with the requirements described in
		Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
428	(c)	The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine
		whether to remove an individual's signature from a petition after receiving a timely, valid statement
		requesting removal of the signature.
431	<u>(7)</u>	Within 30 days after receiving a petition certified under Subsection (3)(b) for the establishment
		of a study committee, the county legislative body shall establish a study committee as provided in
		<u>Section 17-52a-403.</u>
162		Section 2. Section 17-52a-403 is amended to read:
163		17-52a-403. Study committee under a registered voter petition for the establishment of a
	stu	dy committee. <compare mode="add">(Compare Error)</compare>
437	(1)	
	(a	A study committee under a registered voter petition for the establishment of a study committee
		consists of:
439		[(i)registered voters through a petition under Section 17-52a-303:]
441		[(ii)for a study committee established by the registered voters through a petition under Section
		<del>17-52a-303:</del> ]
443	- \	(i) two members appointed by the sponsors of the petition;
444		(ii) two members appointed by the county legislative body; and
445	- '	(iii) one member appointed by the county's council of governments.
446	(b)	A member of a study committee <u>under this section</u> :

447 (i) may not receive compensation for service on the study committee; (ii) may not hold an elected county office or have filed a current declaration of candidacy for an elected 448 county office; and 450 (iii) shall be a registered voter. 451 (c) The county legislative body shall reimburse each member of a study committee for necessary expenses incurred in performing the member's duties on the study committee. 454 (2) A study committee under this section may: 455 (a) adopt rules for the study committee's own organization and procedure and to fill a vacancy in its membership; 457 (b) establish advisory boards or committees and include on the advisory boards or committees persons who are not members of the study committee; and 459 (c) request the assistance and advice of any officers or employees of any agency of state or local government. 461 (3) (a) A study committee under this section shall: 462 (i) study the form of government within the county and compare it with other forms available under this chapter; 464 (ii) determine whether the administration of local government in the county could be strengthened, made more clearly responsive or accountable to the people, or significantly improved in the interest of economy and efficiency by a change in the form of county government; 468 (iii) hold public hearings and community forums and other means the committee considers appropriate to disseminate information and stimulate public discussion of the committee's purposes, progress, and conclusions; and 471 (iv) file a written report of the study committee's findings and recommendations with [the county executive. the county legislative body, [and the county clerk, and, if there is a county executive separate from the county legislative body, the county executive no later than one year after the convening of the study committee's first meeting under Section 17-52a-402. 476 (b) Within 10 days after the day on which the study committee submits the study committee's report under Subsection (3)(a)(iv), if the report recommends a change in the form of county government, the county clerk shall send to the county attorney a copy of the optional plan recommended in the report for review in accordance with Section 17-52a-406.

481 (4) Each study committee report under Subsection (3)(a)(iv) shall include: 482 (a) the study committee's recommendation as to whether the form of county government should be changed to another form authorized under this chapter; 484 (b) if the study committee recommends changing the form of government, a complete detailed draft of a proposed optional plan to change the form of county government, including all necessary implementing provisions; and 487 (c) any additional recommendations the study committee considers appropriate to improve the efficiency and economy of the administration of local government within the county. 490 (5) (a) If the study committee's report recommends a change in the form of county government, the study committee may conduct additional public hearings after filing the report under Subsection (3)(a)(iv) and, following the hearings and subject to Subsection (5)(b), alter the report or proposed optional plan. 494 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (5)(a), the study committee may not make an alteration to the report or proposed optional plan: 496 (i) that would recommend the adoption of an optional form different from that recommended in the original report; or 498 (ii) within the 160-day period before the election under Section 17-52a-501. 499 (6) Each meeting that the study committee holds shall be open to the public. 500 (7) If the study committee's report does not recommend a change in the form of county government, the report is final, the study committee is dissolved, and the process to change the county's form of government is concluded. 503 (8) The county legislative body shall provide for the study committee: 504 (a) suitable meeting facilities; 505 (b) necessary secretarial services; 506 (c) necessary printing and photocopying services; 507 (d) necessary clerical and staff assistance; and 508 (e) adequate funds for the employment of independent legal counsel and professional consultants that the study committee reasonably determines to be necessary to help the study committee fulfill its

(9) The county legislative body may not interfere with the work of the study committee.

duties.

512		Section 9. Section 9 is enacted to read:					
513		17-52a-403.5. Study committee under a county legislative body motion establishing a study					
	cor	nmittee.					
515	<u>(1)</u>	A study committee established by a county legislative body motion under Subsection 17-52a-302(1)					
		(a)(i) consists of five members appointed by the county legislative body.					
517	<u>(2)</u>						
	<u>(a)</u>	A member of a study committee under this section:					
518		(i) may not receive compensation for service on the study committee;					
519		(ii) may not hold an elected county office or have filed a current declaration of candidacy for an					
		elected county office; and					
521		(iii) shall be a registered voter.					
522	<u>(b)</u>	The county legislative body shall reimburse a study committee member for the member's necessary					
		expenses incurred in performing the member's duties on the study committee.					
525	(3)	A study committee under this section shall:					
526	<u>(a)</u>	study the form of government under which the county currently operates;					
527	<u>(b)</u>	study the advisability of changing to the form of government suggested by the county legislative					
		body, including determining whether changing to the suggested form of government would likely:					
530	<u>(i)</u>	strengthen the administration of county government;					
531	(ii)	make the administration of county government more responsive or accountable to the people; or					
533	<u>(iii</u> )	) improve the economy and efficiency of county government; and					
534	<u>(c)</u>	within the time specified by the county legislative body, report to the county legislative body the					
		results of the study committee's study, including any recommendations the study committee has					
		concerning details of a proposed optional plan and any necessary implementing provisions.					
538	<u>(4)</u>	A study committee under this section may hold one or more public hearings, as directed by the					
		county legislative body, to receive public input on the study committee's study.					
540	<u>(5)</u>	The county legislative body shall provide for the study committee:					
541	<u>(a)</u>	suitable meeting facilities;					
542	<u>(b)</u>	necessary secretarial, clerical, and other staff support services;					
543	(c)	necessary printing and photocopying services; and					
544	<u>(d)</u>	adequate funding and other resources required to enable the study committee to fulfill the					
		committee's responsibilities.					

(1) The study committee or the sponsors of a petition described in Subsection 17-52a-303(1)(a)(ii)

shall ensure that an optional plan the committee or registered voters propose under this chapter,

Section 3. Section 17-52a-404 is amended to read: 17-52a-404. Contents of proposed optional plan.

247

	respectively:
252	(a) proposes the adoption of one of the forms of county government authorized in Subsection
	17-52a-405(1)(a);
254	(b) contains detailed provisions relating to the transition from the existing form of county government
	to the form proposed in the optional plan, including provisions relating to the:
257	(i) election or appointment of officers specified in the optional plan for the new form of county
	government;
259	(ii) retention, elimination, or combining of existing offices and, if an office is eliminated, the division or
	department of county government responsible for performing the duties of the eliminated office;
262	(iii) continuity of existing ordinances and regulations;
263	(iv) continuation of pending legislative, administrative, or judicial proceedings;
264	(v) making of interim and temporary appointments; and
265	(vi) preparation, approval, and adjustment of necessary budget appropriations;
266	(c) specifies the date the optional plan becomes effective if adopted, which may not be earlier than the
	first day of January next following the election of officers under the new plan; and
269	(d) notwithstanding any other provision of this title and except with respect to an optional plan
	that proposes the adoption of the county commission or expanded county commission form of
	government, with respect to the county budget provides that:
273	(i) the county executive's role is to prepare and present a proposed budget to the county legislative
	body; and
275	(ii) the county legislative body's role is to adopt a final budget.
276	(2) Subject to Subsection (3), an optional plan may include provisions that are considered necessary or
	advisable to the effective operation of the proposed optional plan.
278	(3) An optional plan may not:
279	(a) include any provision that is inconsistent with or prohibited by the Utah Constitution or any statute;
281	(b) if the optional plan is proposed after March 20, 2020:
282	[(b)] (i) specify compensation, including benefits, for any appointed or elected county official; or

284 [(e)] (ii) specify the full or part-time status of any appointed or elected county official; or 286 [(d)] (c) if the optional plan specifies that county council or commission members are to be elected from districts, establish, divide, abolish, alter, change, or otherwise attempt to draw boundaries of election districts or impair the duties of the county legislative body as described in Section 17-52a-503. 290 (4) The optional plan proponent described in Subsection (1) shall ensure that an optional plan proposing to change the form of government to the county executive-council form under Section 17-52a-203 or the council-manager form under Section 17-52a-204: 293 (a) provides for the same executive and legislative officers as are specified in the applicable section for the form of government that the optional plan proposes; 295 (b) provides for the election of the county council; 296 (c) specifies the number of county council members, which shall be an odd number from three to nine; 298 (d) subject to [Subsection (3)(d)] Subsections (3)(c) and 17-52a-204(9), specifies whether the members of the county council are to be elected from districts, at large, or by a combination of at large and by district; 301 (e) specifies county council members' qualifications and terms and whether the terms are to be staggered; and 303 (f) contains procedures for filling vacancies on the county council, consistent with the provisions of Section 20A-1-508. 305 (5) The optional plan proponent described in Subsection (1) shall ensure that an optional plan proposing to change the form of government to the county commission form under Section 17-52a-201 or the expanded county commission form under Section 17-52a-202 specifies: 309 (a) (i) for the county commission form of government, that the county commission shall have three members; or 311 (ii) for the expanded county commission form of government, whether the county commission shall have five or seven members; 313 (b) the terms of office for county commission members and whether the terms are to be staggered; 315 (c) subject to Subsection [(3)(d)] (3)(c), whether members of the county commission are to be elected

(d) if any members of the county commission are to be elected from districts, the district residency

from districts, at large, or by a combination of at large and from districts;

requirements for those commission members; and

319	(e) if any members of the county commission are to be elected at large, whether the election of county			
	commission members is subject to the provisions of Subsection 17-52a-201(6) or Subsection			
	17-52a-202(6).			
620	{Section 11. Section 17-52a-405 is amended to read: }			
621	17-52a-405. Plan may propose changing forms of county government Partisan elections.			
623	(1)			
	(a) [The optional plan proponent described in Subsection 17-52a-404(1) shall ensure that each optional			
	plan proposes] An optional plan under Subsection 17-52a-404(1) shall propose changing the form of			
	county government to:			
626	(i) for a county of the first, second, third, or fourth class:			
627	(A) the county commission form under Section 17-52a-201;			
628	[(B) the expanded county commission form under Section 17-52a-202;]			
629	[(C)] (B) the county executive and council form under Section 17-52a-203; or			
630	[(D)] (C) the council-manager form under Section 17-52a-204; [and] or			
631	(ii) for a county of the fifth or sixth class[:].			
632	[(A)] the county commission form under Section 17-52a-201[; or] .			
633	[(B) the expanded county commission form under Section 17-52a-202.]			
634	(b) [The optional plan proponent described in] An optional plan under Subsection 17-52a-404(1) may			
	not[-recommend an optional plan that]:			
636	(i) [proposes] propose changing the form of government to a form not authorized in Subsection (1)(a);			
638	(ii) [provides] provide for the nonpartisan election of elected officers;			
639	(iii) [imposes] impose a limit on the number of terms or years that an elected officer may serve;			
641	(iv) [provides] provide for elected officers to be subject to a recall election; or			
642	(v) [provides] provide, in a county with a population of 225,000 or more, for a full-time county			
	commission in [an expanded] a county commission form of government [under Section			
	17-52a-202] with five or seven members.			
645	(2) A county that provides for the election of the county's elected officers through a partisan election			
	may not change to a process that provides for the election of the county's elected officers through a			
	nonpartisan election.			
648	{Section 12. Section 17-52a-504 is amended to read: }			
649	17-52a-504. Amendment of optional plan.			

650 (1) Subject to Subsection (2), an optional plan, after going into effect following an election held under Section 17-52a-501, may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the county legislative body. 653 (2) Notwithstanding Subsection (1), an amendment to an optional plan that is in effect may not take effect until a majority of registered voters voting in a general or special election at which the amendment is proposed approve the amendment, if the amendment changes: 656 (a) the size or makeup of the legislative body, except for adjustments necessary due to decennial reapportionment; or 658 (b) the distribution of powers between the executive and legislative branches of county government[; or]. 660 [(c) the status of the county executive or legislative body from full-time to part-time or vice versa.] 662 {Section 13. Section 17-53-101 is amended to read: } 663 17-53-101. County officers enumerated. 664 (1) The elected officers of a county are: 665 (a) (i) in a county operating under a county commission[-or expanded county commission] form of government, county commission members; or 667 (ii) in a county operating under one of the other forms of county government under Subsection 17-52a-405(1)(a), county legislative body members and the county executive; 670 (b) a county treasurer, a sheriff, a county clerk, a county auditor, a county recorder, a county attorney, a district attorney in a county which is part of a prosecution district, a county surveyor, and a county assessor; and 673 (c) any others provided by law. 674 (2) Notwithstanding Subsection (1), in counties having a taxable value of less than \$100,000,000 the county clerk shall be ex officio auditor of the county and shall perform the duties of the office without extra compensation. 677 {Section 14. Section 17-53-317 is amended to read: } 678 17-53-317. Executive appointment with advice and consent of county legislative body. 680 (1) The appointment of a person to fill a position on a board, committee, or similar body whose membership is appointed by the county shall be by the county executive, with the advice and consent of the county legislative body.

683	(2)
	(a) As used in this Subsection (2), "interim vacancy period" means:
684	(i) for a county commission[-form or expanded county commission] form of government, the period
	of time that:
686	(A) begins on the day on which a general election described in Section 17-16-6 is held to elect a
	commission member; and
688	(B) ends on the day on which the commission member-elect begins the council member's term; or
690	(ii) for a county executive-council form of government, the period of time that:
691	(A) begins on the day on which a general election described in Section 17-16-6 is held to elect a county
	executive; and
693	(B) ends on the day on which the county executive-elect begins the county executive's term.
695	(b)
	(i) A county commission in a county commission form of government[, or a county commission in
	an expanded county commission form of government,] may not appoint during an interim period
	vacancy a manager, a chief executive officer, a chief administrative officer, or a similar position to
	perform executive and administrative duties or functions.
700	(ii) Notwithstanding Subsection (2)(b)(i):
701	(A) a county commission in a county commission form of government[, or a county commission in
	an expanded county commission form of government,] may appoint an interim manager, a chief
	executive officer, a chief administrative officer, or a similar position during an interim vacancy
	period; and
706	(B) the interim appointee's term shall expire once a new manager, a chief executive officer, a chief
	administrative officer, or a similar position is appointed by the new administration after the interim
	vacancy period has ended.
709	(c) Subsection (2)(b) does not apply if all the county commission members who held office on the day
	of the county general election whose term of office was vacant for the election are re-elected to the
	county commission for the following term.
712	(d)
	(i) A county executive in a county executive-council form of government may not appoint during an
	interim vacancy period a manager, a chief executive officer, a chief administrative officer, or a
	similar position to perform executive and administrative duties or functions.

716	(ii)	Notwithsta	nding S	Subsection	(2)(d)(i)	):
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- (A) a county executive in a county executive-council form of government may appoint an interim manager, a chief executive officer, a chief administrative officer, or a similar position during an interim vacancy period; and
- (B) the interim appointee's term shall expire once a new manager, a chief executive officer, a chief administrative officer, or a similar position is appointed by the new county executive after the interim vacancy period has ended.
- (e) Subsection (2)(d) does not apply if the county executive who held office on the day of the county general election is re-elected to the office of county executive for the following term.
- (3) A county commission in a county commission form of government[, a county commission in an expanded county commission form of government,] or a county executive in a county executive-council form of government that appoints a manager, a chief executive officer, a chief administrative officer, or a similar position in accordance with this section may not, on or after May 10, 2011, enter into an employment contract that contains an automatic renewal provision with the manager, chief executive officer, chief administrative officer, or similar position.

322 Section 4. **Effective date.** 

This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.

Section 17. Repealer.

This Bill Repeals:

736 Section 17-52a-202, Expanded county commission form of government -- Commission

737 member elections.

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