

Joint Resolution Regarding Constitutional Brackets

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Todd Weiler

House Sponsor: Karianne Lisonbee

LONG TITLE

~~§~~ [Committee Note:

~~The Judiciary Interim Committee recommended this bill.~~

~~Legislative Vote: 13 voting for 0 voting against 3 absent } ← §~~

General Description:

This resolution addresses brackets surrounding the section titles in the Utah Constitution.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ provides the history of section titles and brackets in the Utah Constitution;
- ▶ determines the effect of the section titles and surrounding brackets; and
- ▶ directs the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to remove the brackets surrounding titles in future constitutional amendments and the published Utah Constitution.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

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

WHEREAS, each section of the Utah Constitution is introduced as follows:

Article Number, Section Number. [Title];

WHEREAS, the Utah Constitution was initially adopted without titles for any constitutional section;

WHEREAS, there is no statutory or constitutional requirement to include a title for each constitutional section;

WHEREAS, no title appeared next to a section number until 1967;

WHEREAS, since 1967, a title has been added, surrounded by brackets, to each section of the published Utah Constitution and each section has been referenced by section number and

31 bracketed title in the table of contents of the published Utah Constitution;

32 WHEREAS, from initial adoption of the Utah Constitution until 1990, neither the
33 Legislature nor the voters adopted a constitutional amendment that contained a title;

34 WHEREAS, since 1990, a bracketed title has been included in each joint resolution to
35 amend the constitution adopted by the Legislature, in materials provided to the voters, and in
36 the published copies of the Utah Constitution; and

37 WHEREAS, the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel prepares the Utah
38 Constitution for publication:

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Utah Legislature of the state of Utah
40 determines that the titles and the surrounding brackets were added for convenience and
41 provide no substantive meaning to the sections of the Utah Constitution.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Utah Legislature determines that removal of the
43 brackets surrounding the titles constitutes a technical edit to the Utah Constitution.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Utah Legislature directs the Office of Legislative
45 Research and General Counsel to prepare constitutional amendment resolutions for the ~~§~~ [

- 45a ~~2026~~ 2027 ←~~§~~

46 General Session and thereafter without brackets surrounding the titles.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Utah Legislature directs the Office of Legislative
48 Research and General Counsel, when next preparing the published Utah Constitution, to
49 remove the brackets surrounding the titles in the published Utah Constitution.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah Attorney
51 General, the Chief Justice of the Utah Supreme Court, and the publishers, WestLaw and
52 LexisNexis.