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**Elections Study**  
2026 GENERAL SESSION  
STATE OF UTAH  
**Chief Sponsor: Jefferson S. Burton**  
Senate Sponsor: Michael K. McKell

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill directs the Gary R. Herbert Institute for Public Policy at Utah Valley University and the Center for Constitutional Studies at Utah Valley University to conduct an elections study.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- directs the Gary R. Herbert Institute for Public Policy at Utah Valley University (the institute) and the Center for Constitutional Studies at Utah Valley University (the center) to conduct an elections study regarding:
  - the security of in-person voting versus voting by mail; and
  - best practices for conducting and implementing a process where identification must be presented before depositing a ballot in a ballot drop box; and
- directs the institute and the center to present the study to the Government Operations Interim Committee.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**53H-4-708**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **53H-4-708** is enacted to read:

**53H-4-708 . Election study.**

- 29     (1) The institute and the center shall conduct a study to determine:  
30         (a) the security risks of in-person voting versus voting by mail; and  
31         (b) the best practices for conducting and implementing a process where identification is  
32             presented and checked at a ballot drop box before a voter may deposit a ballot in the  
33             ballot drop box.
- 34     (2) The portion of the study described in Subsection (1)(a) shall include:  
35         (a) a comparison between Utah and states that don't use voting by mail as the primary  
36             means of voting;  
37         (b) an analysis of potential and actual fraud in Utah, and in comparison to other states;  
38         (c) an analysis of the accuracy or inaccuracy of voter rolls using a vote by mail system  
39             versus in-person voting; and  
40         (d) an analysis of related issues raised in 2024-20, A Performance Audit of Utah's  
41             Election System: Strengthening Election Integrity.
- 42     (3) The portion of the study described in Subsection (1)(b) shall include information,  
43         analysis, and recommendations regarding:  
44         (a) logistics;  
45         (b) wait times;  
46         (c) costs; and  
47         (d) ballot processing.
- 48     (4) The institute and the center shall present the results of the study described in this section  
49         to the Government Operations Interim Committee at or before the October 2026 interim  
50         meeting.

51         Section 2. **Effective Date.**

52         This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.