

Jefferson S. Burton proposes the following substitute bill:

Elections Study

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jefferson S. Burton

Senate Sponsor:

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

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.

(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.