

Municipal Annexation Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: James A. Dunnigan

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill modifies provisions relating to annexation of unincorporated areas of a county of the second class.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- modifies definitions;
- requires certain unincorporated islands in a county of the second class to automatically annex into a bordering municipality; and
- permits a legislative body of a county of the second class to exempt certain unincorporated islands from automatic annexation.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

10-2-814, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 399

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

Section 1. Section **10-2-814** is amended to read:

10-2-814 . Automatic annexations in counties of the first class and second class.

(1) As used in this section:

- (a) "Most populous bordering municipality" means the municipality with the highest population of any municipality that shares a common border with an unincorporated island.
- (b) "Unincorporated island" means~~[-an area that is]~~:
 - (i) an area within a county of the first class~~[;]~~ that is:

- 31 ~~[(ii)] (A)~~ not within a municipality; and
32 ~~[(iii)] (B)~~ completely surrounded by land that is within one or more municipalities
33 within the county of the first class~~[-]~~ ; or
34 (ii) an area within a county of the second class that is:
35 (A) 25 acres or smaller;
36 (B) not within a municipality; and
37 (C) completely surrounded by land that is within one or more municipalities
38 within the county of the second class.
39 (2)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, on July 1, 2027, an
40 unincorporated island is automatically annexed to:
41 (i) the most populous bordering municipality, except as provided in Subsection
42 (2)(a)(ii) or (3); or
43 (ii) a municipality other than the most populous bordering municipality if:
44 (A) the other municipality shares a common border with the unincorporated
45 island; and
46 (B) the other municipality and the most populous bordering municipality each
47 adopt a resolution agreeing that the unincorporated island should be annexed to
48 the other municipality.
49 (b) The effective date of an annexation under Subsection (2)(a) is governed by Section
50 10-2-813.
51 (3) A legislative body of a county of the second class may exempt an unincorporated island
52 or a portion of an unincorporated island from the requirements of this section by
53 adopting a resolution on or before May 1, 2027, that includes a description or map of
54 each exempted unincorporated island or portion of an unincorporated island.
55 Section 2. **Effective Date.**
56 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.