

1 **Higher Education Student Housing Study**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jason E. Thompson

Senate Sponsor:

2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This bill requires the completion of a feasibility study on higher education student housing.

5 **Highlighted Provisions:**

6 This bill:

7 ▸ requires an employee of the governor's office, in consultation with the commissioner of
8 higher education, to:

9 • complete a feasibility study regarding the impact of higher education student housing
10 on surrounding communities; and

11 • report to the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

12 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

13 None

14 **Other Special Clauses:**

15 This bill provides a special effective date.

16 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

17 ENACTS:

18 **53H-9-405**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

20 Section 1. Section **53H-9-405** is enacted to read:

21 **53H-9-405 . Higher education student housing feasibility study.**

22 An employee of the governor's office who is an expert or advisor on housing strategy
23 shall, in consultation with the commissioner of higher education:

24 (1) complete a feasibility study that:

25 (a) examines the impact of higher education student populations on home ownership in
26 communities surrounding institutions of higher education, including the magnitude
27 and costs; and

28 (b) proposes opportunities for state and institutional mitigation of the impacts described
29
30

- 31 in Subsection (1)(a), which may include:
32 (i) a uniform statewide effort to create dedicated student, faculty, and staff housing
33 on state- or institution-owned land; or
34 (ii) state facilitation of negotiated development agreements with third-party
35 developers for student housing;
36 (2) ensure the involvement of presidents of institutions of higher education, the Utah Board
37 of Higher Education, developers, and other interested parties in the process of
38 completing the feasibility study; and
39 (3) report to the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee before November 1, 2026,
40 regarding the outcome of the feasibility study described in Subsection (1).

41 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

42 This bill takes effect:

- 43 (1) except as provided in Subsection (2), May 6, 2026; or
44 (2) if approved by two-thirds of all members elected to each house:
45 (a) upon approval by the governor;
46 (b) without the governor's signature, the day following the constitutional time limit of
47 Utah Constitution, Article VII, Section 8; or
48 (c) in the case of a veto, the date of veto override.