

Wayne A. Harper proposes the following substitute bill:

**Joint Rules Resolution - Resolution Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Calvin Roberts**

Senate Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This joint rules resolution modifies provisions related to resolutions.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- defines terms;
- requires a legislator to obtain a citation, rather than a resolution, for certain purposes;
- prohibits a rules committee from referring a resolution that violates certain rules; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

This resolution provides a special effective date.

**Legislative Rules Affected:**

AMENDS:

**JR4-2-101**

**JR4-5-104**

ENACTS:

**JR4-1-204**

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

Section 1. **JR4-1-204** is enacted to read:

**JR4-1-204 . Purpose of resolutions.**

(1) As used in this rule:

(a) "Binding resolution" means a resolution that:

(i) enacts or amends Joint Rules, Senate Rules, or House Rules;

- (ii) proposes a constitutional amendment; or
- (iii) approves or authorizes an action, requires a substantive action to be taken, or results in a change in law or funding.
- (b)(i) "Nonbinding resolution" means a resolution that:
- (A) requests, rather than compels, action or awareness; and
- (B) communicates a policy position of the Senate, House of Representatives, or Legislature.
- (ii) "Nonbinding resolution" does not include a binding resolution.
- (c) "Resolution" means a binding resolution or a nonbinding resolution.
- (2)(a) A resolution may not recognize, honor, memorialize, or express support or appreciation for an individual, group, or event.
- (b) A legislator wishing to recognize, honor, memorialize, or express support or appreciation for an individual, group, or event may obtain a citation in accordance with Senate Rules, Title 1, Chapter 7, Citations, or House Rules, Title 1, Chapter 7, Citations.
- (3) If a resolution violates Subsection (2)(a), the Senate Rules Committee and House Rules Committee under SR3-1-102 and HR3-1-102, respectively, may not:
- (a) refer the resolution to a standing committee; or
- (b) recommend that the resolution be placed on a reading calendar.
- Section 2. **JR4-2-101** is amended to read:
- JR4-2-101 . Requests for legislation -- Timing.**
- (1) As used in this rule, "appointed legislator" means:
- (a) an incumbent legislator appointed to replace another legislator who resigns or is unable to serve; or
- (b) an individual appointed to replace a legislator who resigns or is unable to serve.
- (2)(a) A legislator wishing to introduce a bill or resolution shall file a request for legislation with the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel within the time limits established by this rule.
- (b) The request for legislation shall:
- (i) designate the chief sponsor, who is knowledgeable about and responsible for providing pertinent information as the legislation is drafted; and
- (ii) include drafting instructions for the legislation.
- (c) The chief sponsor of a resolution shall ensure that the drafting instructions provided under Subsection (2)(b)(ii) comply with JR4-1-204.

63       ~~[(e)]~~ (d)(i)(A) The chief sponsor may modify the drafting instructions provided ~~[in~~  
64       accordance with] under Subsection (2)(b)(ii) only if the modified drafting  
65       instructions do not deviate from the core subject matter of the original drafting  
66       instructions.

67               (B) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall apply the  
68               standard described in Subsection ~~[(2)(e)(i)(A)]~~ (2)(d)(i)(A) in a manner that  
69               favors the chief sponsor.

70               (ii) If the chief sponsor wishes to modify the drafting instructions in a manner  
71               prohibited under Subsection ~~[(2)(e)(i)]~~ (2)(d)(i), the chief sponsor shall file a new,  
72               separate request for legislation in accordance with this rule.

73       (3)(a) Any legislator may file a request for legislation beginning 60 days after the  
74       Legislature adjourns its annual general session sine die.

75       (b) A legislator-elect may file a request for legislation beginning on:

76               (i) the day after:

77                   (A) for a single county race, the date on which the county election canvass is  
78                   completed; or

79                   (B) for a multi-county race, the date on which the statewide election canvass is  
80                   completed; or

81               (ii) if the legislator-elect's election results have not been finalized as of the canvass  
82               date, the day after the date the election results for the legislator-elect's race are  
83               finalized.

84       (c)(i) An incumbent legislator may not file any requests for legislation as of the date  
85       that the legislator:

86                   (A) fails to file to run for election to a seat in the Legislature;

87                   (B) is ineligible to be included on the ballot for the election in which the legislator  
88                   would have sought an additional term; or

89                   (C) fails to win reelection and the legislator's opponent is eligible to file a request  
90                   for legislation under Subsection (3)(b).

91               (ii) Subsection (3)(c)(i) does not apply to a request for legislation for:

92                   (A) a general session that occurs while the legislator is in office; or

93                   (B) a special session that occurs while the legislator is in office.

94       (d)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(e), if a legislator who filed a request for  
95       legislation is unable to serve in the next annual general session for any reason, the  
96       former legislator may seek another legislator to assume sponsorship of the former

legislator's legislation.

(ii) If a former legislator is unable to find another legislator to assume sponsorship under Subsection (3)(d)(i), the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall abandon each request the earlier of:

(A) 30 days after the day on which the former legislator is unable to serve; or

(B) noon on the 11th day of the annual general session.

(iii) The 30-day time period described in Subsection (3)(d)(ii)(A) begins the day on which a former legislator no longer holds the former legislator's seat.

(e)(i) If a legislator dies while in office and is the chief sponsor of one or more requests for legislation or pieces of legislation, the individual appointed to the legislator's seat may assume sponsorship of each request for legislation or piece of legislation.

(ii) If the individual appointed to the legislator's seat chooses not to assume sponsorship of one or more of the legislator's requests for legislation or pieces of legislation, the following individual shall seek another legislator to assume sponsorship of each request for legislation or piece of legislation:

(A) if the legislator was a member of the House majority caucus, the House majority leader;

(B) if the legislator was a member of the House minority caucus, the House minority leader;

(C) if the legislator was a member of the Senate majority caucus, the Senate majority leader; or

(D) if the legislator was a member of the Senate minority caucus, the Senate minority leader.

(iii) If the individual described in Subsection (3)(e)(ii) does not find a new sponsor:

(A) for a request for legislation, the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall abandon the request for legislation; and

(B) for legislation, the legislation shall be returned to the originating chamber and filed.

(f)(i) A legislator-elect who is an incumbent legislator may retain any requests for legislation the legislator-elect filed before the date described in Subsection (3)(b).

(ii) An appointed legislator who is an incumbent legislator may retain any requests for legislation the appointed legislator filed before assuming the seat to which the legislator is appointed.

- (4)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(c), a legislator may not file a request for legislation with the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel after noon on the 11th day of the annual general session.
- (b) On the 11th day of the annual general session, the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall make public on the Legislature's website the short title and sponsor of each request for legislation, unless the sponsor abandons the request for legislation before noon on the 11th day of the annual general session.
- (c)(i) After the 11th day of the annual general session, a legislator may file a request for legislation only if:
- (A) for House legislation, the representative makes a motion to request legislation for drafting and introduction and that motion is approved by a constitutional majority of the House; or
  - (B) for Senate legislation, the senator makes a motion to request legislation for drafting and introduction and that motion is approved by a constitutional majority vote of the Senate.
- (ii) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall make public on the Legislature's website the short title and sponsor of each request for legislation described in this Subsection (4)(c).
- (5) After a request for legislation is abandoned, a legislator may not revive the request for legislation.
- (6) A legislator wishing to obtain funding for a project, program, or entity, when that funding request does not require that a statute be enacted, repealed, or amended, may not file a request for legislation but instead shall file a request for appropriation by following the procedures and requirements of JR3-2-701.

Section 3. **JR4-5-104** is amended to read:

**JR4-5-104 . Converting certain joint and concurrent resolutions.**

- (1) As used in this rule:
- (a) "Nonbinding concurrent resolution" means a nonbinding resolution that is a concurrent resolution.
  - (b) "Nonbinding House joint resolution" means a nonbinding resolution that is a House joint resolution.
  - (c)[(†)] "Nonbinding resolution" means [~~a resolution that:~~] the same as that term is defined in JR4-1-204.
- [(A) is primarily for the purpose of recognizing, honoring, or memorializing an

- 165                   ~~individual, group, or event;~~  
166                   ~~[(B) requests, rather than compels, action or awareness by an individual or group;~~  
167                   ~~or]~~  
168                   ~~[(C) is informational or promotional in nature.]~~  
169                   ~~[(ii) "Nonbinding resolution" does not include:]~~  
170                   ~~[(A) a rules resolution;~~  
171                   ~~[(B) a resolution for a constitutional amendment; or]~~  
172                   ~~[(C) any resolution that approves or authorizes any action, requires any~~  
173                   ~~substantive action be taken, or results in a change in law, policy, or funding.]~~  
174                   (d) "Nonbinding Senate joint resolution" means a nonbinding resolution that is a Senate  
175                   joint resolution.  
176                   (2)(a) A nonbinding concurrent resolution converts to a joint resolution if the governor  
177                   does not approve the nonbinding concurrent resolution before the expiration of the  
178                   time limit described in Utah Constitution, Article VII, Section 8, that would apply if  
179                   the nonbinding concurrent resolution were a bill.  
180                   (b) A nonbinding Senate joint resolution converts to a Senate resolution if:  
181                   (i) the Senate passes the nonbinding Senate joint resolution; and  
182                   (ii) the House does not pass the same version of the nonbinding Senate joint  
183                   resolution as the Senate.  
184                   (c) A nonbinding House joint resolution converts to a House resolution if:  
185                   (i) the House passes the nonbinding House joint resolution; and  
186                   (ii) the Senate does not pass the same version of the nonbinding House joint  
187                   resolution as the House.  
188                   (3) The version of a nonbinding Senate joint resolution or a nonbinding House joint  
189                   resolution that passes the originating chamber is the version that converts to a Senate  
190                   resolution or a House resolution.  
191                   (4)(a) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall convert a resolution  
192                   in accordance with this rule when the office enrolls the resolution.  
193                   (b) The legislative general counsel may make technical revisions to convert a resolution  
194                   in accordance with this rule, including the revisions necessary to comply with  
195                   JR4-1-301.  
196                   (5) When the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel converts a resolution in  
197                   accordance with this rule, the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall  
198                   note the conversion in the Laws of Utah and on the enrolled resolution.

199           Section 4. **Effective Date.**  
200           This resolution takes effect on March 7, 2026.