

Joint Rules Resolution - Requests for Legislation

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Clinton D. Okerlund

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This joint rules resolution limits requests for legislation.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- limits a senator to 10 requests for legislation;
- limits a representative to six requests for legislation;
- provides exceptions to the limitations; 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

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

Section 1. **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] Subject to the limits described in Subsection (2)(b), 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)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b)(ii):

(A) a senator may file no more than 10 requests for legislation; and

(B) a representative may file no more than six requests for legislation.

(ii) The following do not count towards a legislator's limit described in Subsection

(2)(b)(i):

(A) a request for legislation from the chairs of an authorized legislative committee
under JR7-1-602;

(B) a request for legislation that exclusively appropriates money;

(C) a request for legislation that exclusively repeals existing statute; or

(D) the revisor's statute.

(iii) A request for legislation counts toward the limit under this Subsection (2)(b)
regardless of whether a legislator abandons the request.

(c) 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.

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

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

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

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

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

(i) the day after:

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

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

- 65 (ii) if the legislator-elect's election results have not been finalized as of the canvass
66 date, the day after the date the election results for the legislator-elect's race are
67 finalized.
- 68 (c)(i) An incumbent legislator may not file any requests for legislation as of the date
69 that the legislator:
- 70 (A) fails to file to run for election to a seat in the Legislature;
71 (B) is ineligible to be included on the ballot for the election in which the legislator
72 would have sought an additional term; or
73 (C) fails to win reelection and the legislator's opponent is eligible to file a request
74 for legislation under Subsection (3)(b).
- 75 (ii) Subsection (3)(c)(i) does not apply to a request for legislation for:
- 76 (A) a general session that occurs while the legislator is in office; or
77 (B) a special session that occurs while the legislator is in office.
- 78 (d)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(e), if a legislator who filed a request for
79 legislation is unable to serve in the next annual general session for any reason, the
80 former legislator may seek another legislator to assume sponsorship of the former
81 legislator's legislation.
- 82 (ii) If a former legislator is unable to find another legislator to assume sponsorship
83 under Subsection (3)(d)(i), the Office of Legislative Research and General
84 Counsel shall abandon each request the earlier of:
- 85 (A) 30 days after the day on which the former legislator is unable to serve; or
86 (B) noon on the 11th day of the annual general session.
- 87 (iii) The 30-day time period described in Subsection (3)(d)(ii)(A) begins the day on
88 which a former legislator no longer holds the former legislator's seat.
- 89 (e)(i) If a legislator dies while in office and is the chief sponsor of one or more
90 requests for legislation or pieces of legislation, the individual appointed to the
91 legislator's seat may assume sponsorship of each request for legislation or piece of
92 legislation.
- 93 (ii) If the individual appointed to the legislator's seat chooses not to assume
94 sponsorship of one or more of the legislator's requests for legislation or pieces of
95 legislation, the following individual shall seek another legislator to assume
96 sponsorship of each request for legislation or piece of legislation:
- 97 (A) if the legislator was a member of the House majority caucus, the House
98 majority leader;

- 99 (B) if the legislator was a member of the House minority caucus, the House
100 minority leader;
- 101 (C) if the legislator was a member of the Senate majority caucus, the Senate
102 majority leader; or
- 103 (D) if the legislator was a member of the Senate minority caucus, the Senate
104 minority leader.
- 105 (iii) If the individual described in Subsection (3)(e)(ii) does not find a new sponsor:
- 106 (A) for a request for legislation, the Office of Legislative Research and General
107 Counsel shall abandon the request for legislation; and
- 108 (B) for legislation, the legislation shall be returned to the originating chamber and
109 filed.
- 110 (f)(i) A legislator-elect who is an incumbent legislator may retain any requests for
111 legislation the legislator-elect filed before the date described in Subsection (3)(b).
- 112 (ii) An appointed legislator who is an incumbent legislator may retain any requests
113 for legislation the appointed legislator filed before assuming the seat to which the
114 legislator is appointed.
- 115 (4)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(c), a legislator may not file a request for
116 legislation with the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel after noon
117 on the 11th day of the annual general session.
- 118 (b) On the 11th day of the annual general session, the Office of Legislative Research and
119 General Counsel shall make public on the Legislature's website the short title and
120 sponsor of each request for legislation, unless the sponsor abandons the request for
121 legislation before noon on the 11th day of the annual general session.
- 122 (c)(i) After the 11th day of the annual general session, a legislator may file a request
123 for legislation only if:
- 124 (A) for House legislation, the representative makes a motion to request legislation
125 for drafting and introduction and that motion is approved by a constitutional
126 majority of the House; or
- 127 (B) for Senate legislation, the senator makes a motion to request legislation for
128 drafting and introduction and that motion is approved by a constitutional
129 majority vote of the Senate.
- 130 (ii) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall make public on the
131 Legislature's website the short title and sponsor of each request for legislation
132 described in this Subsection (4)(c).

- 133 (5) After a request for legislation is abandoned, a legislator may not revive the request for
134 legislation.
- 135 (6) A legislator wishing to obtain funding for a project, program, or entity, when that
136 funding request does not require that a statute be enacted, repealed, or amended, may not
137 file a request for legislation but instead shall file a request for appropriation by following
138 the procedures and requirements of JR3-2-701.
- 139 Section 2. **Effective Date.**
- 140 This resolution takes effect May 6, 2026.