

1                   **Joint Resolution to Initiate a Law School at Utah Valley University**

2                   2026 GENERAL SESSION

3                   STATE OF UTAH

4                   **Chief Sponsor: Brady Brammer**

5                   House Sponsor:

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6                   **LONG TITLE**

7                   **General Description:**

8                   This resolution directs Utah Valley University to conduct a feasibility study for establishing  
9                   a law school.

10                   **Highlighted Provisions:**

11                   This resolution:

- 12                   ▶ recognizes the need for increased access to legal education in the state;
- 13                   ▶ acknowledges Utah Valley University's mission to serve working professionals;
- 14                   ▶ directs Utah Valley University to study the feasibility of establishing a law school at the  
15                   Thanksgiving Point campus;
- 16                   ▶ requires evaluation of facility needs, faculty requirements, accreditation pathways, and  
17                   market viability;
- 18                   ▶ directs Utah Valley University to design programming focused on evening and weekend  
19                   instruction for working professionals; and
- 20                   ▶ requires a report to the Legislature on findings and recommendations.

21                   **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

22                   None

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23                   **Other Special Clauses:**

24                   None

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

26                   WHEREAS, access to legal education is essential for developing a robust legal profession  
27                   to serve Utah's growing population;

28                   WHEREAS, Utah's population is projected to reach 4.2 million by 2030, increasing demand  
29                   for legal services across the state;

30                   WHEREAS, Utah currently has two law schools, both located in the northern Wasatch  
Front, limiting geographic and programmatic diversity;

WHEREAS, Utah Valley University serves as the state's largest public university and

31 maintains a mission of providing accessible, career-focused education;

32 WHEREAS, Utah Valley University operates facilities at Thanksgiving Point in Lehi,  
33 providing modern educational space in a central location along the Wasatch Front;

34 WHEREAS, many working professionals seek legal education but cannot accommodate  
35 traditional daytime law school schedules;

36 WHEREAS, part-time, evening, and weekend law programs successfully serve working  
37 professionals at accredited institutions nationwide;

38 WHEREAS, the American Bar Association accredits law schools that meet rigorous  
39 standards for faculty, curriculum, facilities, and student services;

40 WHEREAS, establishing a law school requires careful evaluation of accreditation  
41 requirements, faculty recruitment, facility adequacy, and financial sustainability;

42 WHEREAS, a law school at Utah Valley University could expand access to legal education  
43 for non-traditional students, working professionals, and underserved communities;

44 WHEREAS, Utah's technology sector, growing business community, and expanding state  
45 and local government operations create sustained demand for legal professionals;

46 WHEREAS, a feasibility study should examine initial enrollment projections, tuition  
47 models, faculty hiring needs, library and technology requirements, and pathways to American  
48 Bar Association accreditation;

49 WHEREAS, collaboration with the Utah Board of Higher Education and the Utah System  
50 of Higher Education would ensure alignment with statewide higher education priorities; and

51 WHEREAS, a comprehensive feasibility study would provide the Legislature with  
52 information necessary to evaluate this proposal:

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah directs  
54 Utah Valley University, in consultation with the Utah Board of Higher Education, to conduct a  
55 comprehensive feasibility study for establishing a law school.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the feasibility study shall address:

- 57 (1) facility requirements, including adequacy of existing Thanksgiving Point campus  
58 facilities, library resources, classroom technology, and necessary modifications or  
59 expansions;
- 60 (2) faculty requirements, including the number of full-time and adjunct faculty needed for  
61 American Bar Association accreditation, anticipated faculty salaries, and faculty  
62 recruitment strategies;
- 63 (3) student needs, including projected enrollment for initial and subsequent classes, student  
64 support services, bar examination preparation resources, and career services;

65 (4) staffing requirements, including administrative personnel, library staff, academic  
66 support staff, and operational personnel;

67 (5) accreditation pathways, including American Bar Association provisional and full  
68 accreditation requirements, a timeline for achieving accreditation, and compliance  
69 strategies;

70 (6) market viability, including demand analysis for legal education in Utah, employment  
71 outcomes for graduates, potential impacts on existing Utah law schools, and regional  
72 workforce needs;

73 (7) initial class size recommendations based on faculty capacity, facility limitations, and  
74 market demand;

75 (8) tuition cost projections, including estimated tuition for the initial years, comparison with  
76 other law schools in the region, and financial aid considerations;

77 (9) program design focused on evening and weekend instruction to serve working  
78 professionals and non-traditional students;

79 (10) operating budget projections for the first five years, including revenue assumptions and  
80 expense categories;

81 (11) capital investment requirements and potential funding sources;

82 (12) timelines for program development, accreditation process, and student enrollment; and

83 (13) any other considerations necessary for legislative evaluation of this proposal.

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Utah Valley University shall submit a written  
85 report of findings and recommendations to the Education Interim Committee and the  
86 Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee no later than November 30, 2026.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the feasibility study shall consider how a law  
88 school at Utah Valley University would complement existing legal education in Utah  
89 and serve populations not currently reached by traditional law school programs.