

## Chapter 1 General Provisions

### Part 1 General Provisions and Format Requirements

#### **JR4-1-101 Definitions.**

As used in this title:

- (1)"Bill" means legislation introduced for consideration by the Legislature that does any, some, or all of the following to Utah statutes:
  - (a)amends;
  - (b)enacts;
  - (c)repeals;
  - (d)repeals and reenacts; or
  - (e)renumbers and amends.
- (2)"Boldface" means the brief descriptive summary of the contents of a statutory section prepared by the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel that is printed for each title, chapter, part, and section of the Utah Code.
- (3)"Concurrent resolution" means a written proposal of the Legislature and governor, which, to be approved, must be passed by both chambers of the Legislature and concurred to by the governor.
- (4)"Constitutional joint resolution" means a joint resolution proposing to amend, enact, or repeal portions of the Utah Constitution which, to be approved for submission to the voters, must be passed by a two-thirds vote of both chambers of the Legislature.
- (5)"Drafting instructions" means:
  - (a)specific information concerning the change or addition to law or policy that a legislator intends to propose through legislation; or
  - (b)a specific situation or concern that a legislator intends to address through legislation.
- (6)"House resolution" means a written proposal of the House of Representatives which, to be approved, must be passed by the House of Representatives.
- (7)"Joint resolution" means a written proposal of the Legislature which, to be approved, must be passed by both chambers of the Legislature, including a constitutional joint resolution.
- (8)"Laws of Utah" means all of the laws currently in effect in Utah.
- (9)"Legislation" means a bill or resolution introduced for consideration by the Legislature.
- (10)"Legislative sponsor" means:
  - (a)the chief sponsor under JR4-2-103; or
  - (b)the legislator designated by the chief sponsor to be the opposite chamber floor sponsor.
- (11)"Minority leader" means the same as that term is defined in JR3-2-101.
- (12)"Minority party" means the same as that term is defined in JR3-2-101.
- (13)"Request for legislation" means a formal request from a legislator or an authorized legislative committee that the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel prepare a bill or resolution.
- (14)"Resolution" includes a joint resolution, concurrent resolution, House resolution, and Senate resolution.
- (15)"Senate resolution" means a written proposal of the Senate which, to be approved, must be passed by the Senate.
- (16)"Statute" means a law that has met the constitutional requirements for enactment.

(17)"Statutory section" means the unique unit of the laws of Utah that is identified by a title, chapter, and section number.

Amended by H.J.R. 1, 2026 General Session

## **Part 2 Bill Format**

### **JR4-1-201 General bill format requirements.**

(1)Each bill shall be typewritten or printed on paper 8-1/2 by 11 inches.

- (2)
- (a)When a bill proposes to enact new law, all of the language proposed to be enacted by the bill shall be underlined.
  - (b)When a bill proposes to enact a statutory section of new law, all of the language in the entire section must be underlined.
  - (c)When a bill proposes to repeal an existing statutory section and reenact that statutory section using new language, the new language of the entire section shall be underlined.
- (3)When a bill proposes to amend a statutory section without repealing the entire statutory section:
- (a)all of the language to be repealed must appear with the letters struck through; and
  - (b)all of the new language proposed to be enacted by the bill must be underlined.
- (4)When a bill proposes to repeal a statutory section, the statutory sections to be repealed shall be listed in the long title as required by these rules and listed by statutory section number and bold face at the end of the bill before any special clauses.

Amended by H.J.R. 4, 2025 General Session

### **JR4-1-202 Specific bill format requirements.**

- (1)Each bill shall contain:
- (a)a designation containing the information required by Subsection (2);
  - (b)a short title, which provides a short description of the bill;
  - (c)the year and type of legislative session in which the bill is to be introduced;
  - (d)the phrase "State of Utah";
  - (e)the sponsor's name, after the heading "Chief Sponsor:";
  - (f)if the bill is a House bill that has passed third reading in the House, the Senate sponsor's name after the heading "Senate Sponsor:";
  - (g)if the bill is a Senate bill that has passed third reading in the Senate, the House sponsor's name after the heading "House Sponsor:";
  - (h)a long title, which includes:
    - (i)a brief general description of the subject matter in the bill;
    - (ii)a list of the bill's key provisions;
    - (iii)a list of each section of the Utah Code affected by the bill, which cites by statute number those statutes that the bill proposes be amended, enacted, repealed and reenacted, renumbered and amended, and repealed; and
    - (iv)for bills that contain an appropriation, the sum proposed to be appropriated by the bill unless the bill is an appropriation bill or supplemental appropriation bill whose single subject is the appropriation of money;

- (i) an enacting clause in the following form: "Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:";  
and
  - (j) the subject matter, given in one or more sections.
- (2) The designation shall be a heading that identifies the bill by the bill's chamber of introduction and by unique number assigned to the bill by the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel and shall be in the following form: "S.B." or "H.B." followed by the number assigned to the bill.
- (3) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall draft a bill's short title and long title described in Subsection (1) using language that:
- (a) accurately and objectively describes the bill's contents; and
  - (b) does not explicitly or implicitly advocate for one or more of the bill's policy objectives.

Amended by 2nd Sub. H.J.R. 6, 2025 General Session

**JR4-1-203 Effective date of bills.**

- (1)
- (a) Unless otherwise directed by the Legislature and subject to Subsections (2) and (3), a bill becomes effective 60 days after the adjournment of the session at which it passed.
  - (b) The 60 days begins to run the day after the Legislature adjourns sine die.
- (2)
- (a) The effective date of a bill may not be a date later than January 1 of the second calendar year immediately following the calendar year of the session at which the bill is passed.
  - (b) A bill with a contingent effective date is not subject to Subsection (2)(a).
- (3)
- (a) If the effective date of a bill is contingent, before the bill may be introduced:
    - (i) the bill sponsor shall inform the legislative general counsel of the contingent effective date;  
and
    - (ii) the legislative general counsel shall, on behalf of the bill sponsor, request approval of the contingent effective date from the president and speaker.
  - (b) A bill that has a contingent effective date that is not approved by the president and the speaker may not be introduced.
  - (c) Subsections (3)(a) and (b) do not apply to a bill that has a contingent effective date that is contingent on voter approval of an amendment to the Utah Constitution.
- (4) A rules committee, a standing committee, the Senate, or the House of Representatives is prohibited from suspending the provisions of Subsection (2) or (3).

**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.

Enacted by H.J.R. 2, 2026 General Session

### **Part 3 Resolution Format**

#### **JR4-1-301 General resolution format requirements.**

- (1) Each resolution shall be typewritten or printed on paper 8-1/2 by 11 inches.
- (2) Each resolution shall contain:
  - (a) a designation containing the information required by Subsection (3);
  - (b) a short title;
  - (c) the year and type of legislative session in which the resolution is to be introduced;
  - (d) the phrase "State of Utah";
  - (e) the sponsor's name, after the heading "Chief Sponsor:";
  - (f) the Senate sponsor's name after the heading "Senate Sponsor:" if the resolution:
    - (i) is a concurrent resolution or a joint resolution;
    - (ii) originated in the House of Representatives; and
    - (iii) has passed third reading in the House of Representatives;
  - (g) the House sponsor's name after the heading "House Sponsor:" if the resolution:
    - (i) is a concurrent resolution or a joint resolution;
    - (ii) originated in the Senate; and
    - (iii) has passed third reading in the Senate;
  - (h) a long title, which shall include a list of constitutional sections, legislative rules, or the Utah Supreme Court's Rules of Procedure or Rules of Evidence affected, if applicable;
  - (i) a resolving clause containing the information required by Subsection (4);
  - (j) for joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions, Senate resolutions, and House resolutions:
    - (i) one or more paragraphs that begin with the word "Whereas" that function as the preamble; and
    - (ii) one or more paragraphs that begin with the words "Be it Resolved" that identify the statement of purpose or policy; and
  - (k) special clauses including, if necessary, an effective date.
- (3) The designation shall be a heading that identifies the resolution by the resolution's chamber of introduction and by unique number assigned to the resolution by the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel and shall be in the following form:

- (a) for a joint resolution, unless the resolution converted to a joint resolution in accordance with JR4-5-104: "S.J.R." or "H.J.R." followed by the number assigned to the joint resolution;
  - (b) for a concurrent resolution, regardless of whether the concurrent resolution converts to a joint resolution in accordance with JR4-5-104: "S.C.R." or "H.C.R." followed by the number assigned to the concurrent resolution;
  - (c) for a Senate resolution: "S.R." followed by the number assigned to the Senate resolution; or
  - (d) for a House resolution: "H.R." followed by the number assigned to the House resolution.
- (4) Each resolution shall contain a resolving clause in one of the following forms:
- (a) in a constitutional joint resolution, or in a joint resolution proposing to amend the Utah Supreme Court's Rules of Procedure or Rules of Evidence: "Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, with at least two-thirds of all members elected to each of the two houses concurring:";
  - (b) in a joint resolution: "Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:";
  - (c) in a concurrent resolution: "Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, with the Governor concurring:";
  - (d) in a Senate resolution: "Be it resolved by the Senate of the state of Utah:"; or
  - (e) in a House resolution: "Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Utah:".

Amended by H.J.R. 23, 2024 General Session

**JR4-1-302 Effective date of resolutions.**

- (1) Unless otherwise directed by the Legislature and subject to Subsections (2) and (3), a resolution becomes effective on:
- (a) the day that the resolution receives final approval from:
    - (i) the House of Representatives or the Senate, if the resolution is a single chamber resolution;
    - (ii) both the House of Representatives and the Senate, if the resolution is a joint resolution;
    - (iii) the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the governor, if the resolution is a concurrent resolution; or
    - (iv) the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the voters at the next general election, if the resolution is a constitutional joint resolution; or
  - (b) the day after the day on which the time period described in JR4-5-104 expires, if the resolution is a concurrent resolution that converts to a joint resolution in accordance with JR4-5-104.
- (2)
- (a) The effective date of a resolution may not be a date later than December 31 of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year of the session at which the resolution is passed.
  - (b) A resolution with a contingent effective date is not subject to Subsection (2)(a).
- (3)
- (a) If the effective date of a resolution is contingent, before the resolution may be introduced:
    - (i) the resolution sponsor shall inform the legislative general counsel of the contingent effective date; and
    - (ii) the legislative general counsel shall, on behalf of the resolution sponsor, request approval of the contingent effective date from the president and speaker.
  - (b) A resolution that has a contingent effective date that is not approved by the president and the speaker may not be introduced.
  - (c) Subsections (3)(a) and (b) do not apply to a resolution to amend the Utah Constitution that is contingent on approval by the voters.
- (4) A rules committee, a standing committee, the Senate, or the House of Representatives may not suspend the provisions of Subsection (2) or (3).

Amended by H.J.R. 23, 2024 General Session

**JR4-1-303 Distribution of resolutions.**

- (1)
  - (a) Subject to Subsection (2), the secretary of the Senate shall ensure that Senate Resolutions and Senate Joint Resolutions are distributed as required by the resolution.
  - (b) Subject to Subsection (2), the chief clerk of the House shall ensure that House Resolutions and House Joint Resolutions are distributed as required in the resolution.
- (2) If either the House or the Senate, or both, enact a resolution urging action by the United States House of Representatives, the United States Senate, or the United States Congress as a whole, in informing those entities of the action, the resolution may only be sent to:
  - (a) the Utah congressional delegation;
  - (b) the speaker of the United States House of Representatives;
  - (c) the majority leader of the United States Senate; and
  - (d) at the request of the legislative sponsor, any member of the appropriate U.S. House or U.S. Senate committee or subcommittee.

Enacted by H.J.R. 11, 2007 General Session

**Part 4  
Amendments in Context**

**JR4-1-401 Requesting amendments -- Identifying adopted amendments in context.**

- (1)
  - (a) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(b):
    - (i) only a senator may request an amendment for introduction in a Senate standing committee or on the Senate floor; and
    - (ii) only a representative may request an amendment for introduction in a House standing committee or on the House floor.
  - (b) A legislative sponsor of the legislation may request an amendment for introduction in a Senate or House standing committee, regardless of whether the legislator is a senator or a representative.
- (2) When a Senate committee or floor amendment is adopted in the Senate, the Senate amendment shall be noted in the legislation with additional spacing and markers indicating the beginning and ending of the adopted Senate amendment.
- (3) When a House committee or floor amendment is adopted in the House, the House amendment shall be noted in the legislation with additional spacing and markers indicating the beginning and ending of the adopted House amendment.

Amended by H.J.R. 4, 2025 General Session

Amended by 2nd Sub. H.J.R. 6, 2025 General Session