

**RESOLUTION REGARDING METHAMPHETAMINE LAB CLEANUP  
AND PUBLIC SAFETY STANDARDS AND PROGRAMS**

1999 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Sponsor: A. Lamont Tyler**

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE REQUESTING THAT THE UTAH SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND ANTI-VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ESTABLISH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STANDARDS REGARDING CLEANUP OF BUILDINGS USED AS METHAMPHETAMINE LABS, AND STANDARDS FOR DETERMINING IF THE CLEANUP IS ADEQUATE FOR HABITABILITY; TO ESTABLISH TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR EMPLOYEES OF AGENCIES AFFECTED BY THESE LABS; TO IMPLEMENT A CERTIFICATION PROGRAM REGARDING BUSINESSES INVOLVED IN METHAMPHETAMINE LAB CLEANUP SERVICES; TO DETERMINE WHICH AGENCIES SHOULD IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE THESE PROGRAMS; AND TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CLEANUP FUNDING SOURCES.

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

WHEREAS, methamphetamine is an illicit drug that is manufactured in illegal clandestine laboratories which are likely to produce toxic fumes and large amounts of toxic waste, which can permeate the area where the methamphetamine is manufactured, creating serious risks to human health;

WHEREAS, Utah is usually included in the top three states in terms of numbers of methamphetamine labs seized, and the numbers are increasing with more than 300 methamphetamine labs seized last year;

WHEREAS, the real property where methamphetamine labs are operated becomes severely contaminated;

WHEREAS, buildings contaminated by methamphetamine lab operations pose a risk to the peace officers, health department employees, human services employees, and others who become

exposed to these sites;

WHEREAS, training programs are not available to adequately educate public health and safety personnel throughout the state so they have the skills necessary to safely manage the discovery and investigation of a methamphetamine lab;

WHEREAS, property owners and possible occupants of the building also risk exposure if the building has not been adequately cleaned;

WHEREAS, the state needs to have generally applicable standards for determining to what level and by what means a site must be cleaned in order to ensure habitability of the site;

WHEREAS, the state does not have established methods and guidelines for determining if cleaning has rendered the site habitable, or what action should be taken to protect the public if the site does not meet standards of habitability; and

WHEREAS, the state also does not have a program for the certification of businesses who offer services in the cleanup of methamphetamine lab sites, and this certification would be of benefit to property owners who must deal with sites where a methamphetamine lab has been operated:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that the Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence (USAAV) Coordinating Council, created in Section 63-25a-201, coordinate and staff a work group of representatives from the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Health, and the Department of Public Safety, working in consultation with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other appropriate federal, state, and local agencies, in order to make recommendations regarding the establishment of the following:

1. standards for the procedures to be used in cleanup of methamphetamine lab sites;
2. standards for habitability of those sites, and which agency shall be responsible for enforcement of the standards;
3. a certification program for businesses involved in methamphetamine lab cleanup, and which agency shall be responsible for certifying businesses;
4. training programs for public health and safety employees who face the risk of exposure to a methamphetamine lab in the course of carrying out their employment duties, and which agency

shall be responsible for conducting the training; and

5. sources to provide funding for methamphetamine lab cleanup costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the USAAV Council seek and include input from local health departments as the work group carries out the purposes of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the USAAV Council compile a report of the results of the work group's efforts and any recommendations the work group may have for legislation, and make this report available to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice and Judiciary Interim Committees of the Legislature not later than September 30, 1999.