1	RESOLUTION AMENDING STATE AND LOCAL
2	GOVERNMENT PROVISIONS
3	1999 GENERAL SESSION
4	STATE OF UTAH
5	Sponsor: Howard C. Nielson
6	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE PROPOSING TO AMEND THE UTAH
7	CONSTITUTION; AMENDING AND ENACTING PROVISIONS RELATING TO LOCAL
8	GOVERNMENT; REPEALING DUPLICATIVE LANGUAGE PROHIBITING A PROPERTY
9	QUALIFICATION TO VOTE OR HOLD OFFICE; MODIFYING GENERAL AND SPECIAL
10	ELECTION PROVISIONS; EXPANDING THE PROHIBITION AGAINST LENDING PUBLIC
11	CREDIT TO A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATION; PROVIDING FOR POWERS
12	OF COUNTIES, CITIES, TOWNS, AND OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE
13	STATE; MODIFYING PROVISIONS FOR MOVING A COUNTY SEAT; \$ [REPEALING
14	CHARTER CITY PROVISIONS; § MODIFYING SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT PROVISIONS;
15	EXPANDING PROHIBITION AGAINST IMPOSING TAXES FOR LOCAL PURPOSES;
16	MODIFYING DEBT PROVISIONS; MODIFYING HIGHWAY PURPOSES FOR WHICH
17	REVENUE FROM HIGHWAY USER AND MOTOR FUEL TAXES ARE TO BE USED;
18	MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
19	This resolution proposes to change the Utah Constitution as follows:
20	AMENDS:
21	ARTICLE I, SECTION 4
22	ARTICLE IV, SECTION 9
23	ARTICLE VI, SECTION 1
24	ARTICLE VI, SECTION 29
25	ARTICLE XI, SECTION 1
26	ARTICLE XI, SECTION 2
27	ARTICLE XI SECTION 4

28	ARTICLE XI, SECTION 5
29	ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 5
30	ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 13
31	ARTICLE XIV, SECTION 3
32	ENACTS:
33	ARTICLE XI, SECTION 7
34	ARTICLE XI, SECTION 8
35	ARTICLE XI, SECTION 9
36	ARTICLE XI, SECTION 10
37	REPEALS:
38	ARTICLE XII, SECTION 8
39	ARTICLE XIV, SECTION 8
40	Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, two-thirds of all members elected to each of
41	the two houses voting in favor thereof:
42	Section 1. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution Article I, Section 4, to read:
43	Article I, Section 4. [Religious liberty.]
44	The rights of conscience shall never be infringed. The State shall make no law respecting
45	an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; no religious test shall be
46	required as a qualification for any office of public trust or for any vote at any election; nor shall
47	any person be incompetent as a witness or juror on account of religious belief or the absence
48	thereof. There shall be no union of Church and State, nor shall any church dominate the State or
49	interfere with its functions. No public money or property shall be appropriated for or applied to
50	any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or for the support of any ecclesiastical establishmen
51	[No property qualification shall be required of any person to vote, or hold office, except as
52	provided in this Constitution.]
53	Section 2. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution Article IV, Section 9, to read:
54	Article IV, Section 9. [General and special elections Terms.]
55	(1) [All] Each general [elections, except for municipal and school officers,] election shall
56	be held on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November of [the] each even-numbered
57	year [in which the election is held].
58	(2) Special elections may be held as provided by [ <del>law</del> ] statute

59	(3) The [terms] term of [all officers] each officer, except legislator, elected at [any] a
60	general election[, except legislators,] shall commence on the first Monday in January next
61	following the date of [their] the election.
62	(4) [Municipal and School] The election of officers of each city, town, school district, and
63	other political subdivision of the State shall be [elected] held at [such] the time [as may be] and
64	in the manner provided by [law] statute.
65	Section 3. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution Article VI, Section 1, to read:
66	Article VI, Section 1. [Power vested in Senate, House and People.]
67	(1) The Legislative power of the State shall be vested <u>in</u> :
68	[1. In] (a) a Senate and House of Representatives which shall be designated the
69	Legislature of the State of Utah[-]; and
70	[2. In] (b) the people of the State of Utah[, as hereinafter stated:] as provided in
71	Subsection (2).
72	(2) (a) (i) The legal voters [or such fractional part thereof,] of the State of Utah [as may
73	be provided by law], in the numbers, under [such] the conditions [and], in [such] the manner, and
74	within [such] the time [as may be] provided by [law] statute, may:
75	(A) initiate any desired legislation and cause [the same] it to be submitted to [a vote of]
76	the people for [approval or rejection,] adoption upon a majority vote of those voting on the
77	legislation, as provided by statute; or [may]
78	(B) require any law passed by the Legislature, [()except those laws passed by a two-thirds
79	vote of the members elected to each house of the Legislature[], to be submitted to the voters of
80	the State, as provided by statute, before [such] the law [shall] may take effect. [Legislation]
81	(ii) Notwithstanding Subsection (2)(a)(i)(A), legislation initiated to allow, limit, or prohibit
82	the taking of wildlife or the season for or method of taking wildlife shall be adopted upon approval
83	of two-thirds of those voting.
84	(b) The legal voters [or such fractional part thereof as may be provided by law,] of any
85	[legal subdivision of the State] county, city, or town, in the numbers, under [such] the conditions
86	[and], in [such] the manner, and within [such] the time [as may be] provided by [law] statute, may:
87	(i) initiate any desired legislation and cause [the same] it to be submitted to [a vote of] the
88	people of [said legal subdivision] the county, city, or town for [approval or rejection,] adoption
89	upon a majority vote of those voting on the legislation, as provided by statute; or [may]

90	(ii) require any law or ordinance passed by the law making body of [said legal subdivision]
91	the county, city, or town to be submitted to the voters thereof, as provided by statute, before [such]
92	the law or ordinance [shall] may take effect.
93	Section 4. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution Article VI, Section 29, to read:
94	Article VI, Section 29. [Lending public credit forbidden Exception.]
95	The Legislature [shall] may not authorize the State, or any county, city, town, [township,]
96	school district, \$ [special district,] \$ or other political subdivision of the State to lend its credit or
97	subscribe to stock or bonds in aid of any railroad, telegraph or other private individual or corporate
98	enterprise or undertaking, except as provided in Article X, Section 5.
99	Section 5. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution Article XI, Section 1, to read:
100	ARTICLE XI. LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
101	Article XI, Section 1. [Counties recognized as legal subdivisions Powers of
102	counties.]
103	(1) The [several] counties of the [Territory] State of Utah[, existing at the time of the
104	adoption of this Constitution,] are [hereby] recognized as legal subdivisions of this State[, and the
105	precincts, and school districts,]. The counties now existing [in said counties, as legal subdivisions
106	thereof, and they] shall [so] continue until changed as provided by [law in pursuance of this article]
107	statute.
108	(2) Counties may:
109	(a) as prescribed by statute, levy, assess, and collect taxes, borrow money, and levy and
110	collect special assessments for benefits conferred; and
111	(b) provide services, exercise powers, and perform functions that are reasonably related
112	to the safety, health, morals, and welfare of their inhabitants, except as the Legislature limits or
113	prohibits by statute.
114	Section 6. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution Article XI, Section 2, to read:
115	Article XI, Section 2. [Moving a county seat.]
116	[No County Seat shall be removed unless two-thirds of the qualified electors of the county,
117	voting on the proposition at a general election, shall vote in favor of such removal, and two-thirds
118	of the votes cast on the proposition shall be required to re-locate a county seat.] A county seat may
119	be moved only when at a countywide general election two-thirds of those voting on the proposition
120	vote in favor of moving the county seat. A proposition [of removal shall] to move the county seat

121	may not be submitted in the same county more than once in four years.
122	Section 7. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution Article XI, Section 4, to read:
123	Article XI, Section 4. [Optional forms of county government.]
124	The Legislature shall by [general law prescribe] statute provide for optional forms of
125	county government [and shall allow each county to select, subject to referendum in the manner
126	provided by law, the prescribed]. The selection of an optional form [which best serves its needs,
127	and by general laws shall provide for precinct and township organizations] shall be subject to voter
128	approval as provided by statute.
129	Section 8. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution Article XI, Section 5, to read:
130	Article XI, Section 5. [Cities and towns To be created or dissolved by statute, not
131	special laws.]
132	[Corporations for municipal purposes shall]
133	(1) The Legislature may not [be created] create \$ [or dissolve] \$ cities or towns by special laws.
134	(2) The Legislature by [general laws] statute shall provide for the incorporation,
135	organization [and classification], and dissolution of cities and towns and for their classification in
136	proportion to population[, which laws may be altered, amended or repealed.] \$ [-[-] \$ Any
136a	incorporated city
137	or town may frame and adopt a charter for its own government in the following manner: $\S$ [ $+$ ] $\S$ .
138	§ [——] § The legislative authority of the city may, by two-thirds vote of its members, and upon
139	petition of qualified electors to the number of fifteen per cent of all votes cast at the next preceding
140	election for the office of the mayor, shall forthwith provide by ordinance for the submission to the
141	electors of the question: "Shall a commission be chosen to frame a charter?" The ordinance shall
142	require that the question be submitted to the electors at the next regular municipal election. The
143	ballot containing such question shall also contain the names of candidates for members of the
144	proposed commission, but without party designation. Such candidates shall be nominated in the
145	same manner as required by law for nomination of city officers. If a majority of the electors voting
146	on the question of choosing a commission shall vote in the affirmative, then the fifteen candidates
147	receiving a majority of the votes cast at such election, shall constitute the charter commission, and
148	shall proceed to frame a charter. § [] ş
149	\$[+] \$ Any charter so framed shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the city at an
149a	election
150	to be held at a time to be determined by the charter commission, which shall be not less than sixty
151	days subsequent to its completion and distribution among the electors and not more than one year \$ [+] \$

\$[十] § from such date. Alternative provisions may also be submitted to be voted upon separately. The commission shall make provisions for the distribution of copies of the proposed charter and of any alternative provisions to the qualified electors of the city, not less than sixty days before the election at which it is voted upon. Such proposed charter and such alternative provisions as are approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, shall become an organic law of such city at such time as may be fixed therein, and shall supersede any existing charter and all laws affecting the organization and government of such city which are now in conflict therewith. Within thirty days after its approval a copy of such charter as adopted, certified by the mayor and city recorder and authenticated by the seal of such city, shall be made in duplicate and deposited, one in the office of the secretary of State and the other in the office of the city recorder, and thereafter all courts shall take judicial notice of such charter. \$ [+] §

§ [+] § Amendments to any such charter may be framed and submitted by a charter commission in the same manner as provided for making of charters, or may be proposed by the legislative authority of the city upon a two-thirds vote thereof, or by petition of qualified electors to a number equal to fifteen per cent of the total votes cast for mayor on the next preceding election, and any such amendment may be submitted at the next regular municipal election, and having been approved by the majority of the electors voting thereon, shall become part of the charter at the time fixed in such amendment and shall be certified and filed as provided in case of charters. S [+] s

§ [f] § Each city forming its charter under this section shall have, and is hereby granted, the authority to exercise all powers relating to municipal affairs, and to adopt and enforce within its limits, local police, sanitary and similar regulations not in conflict with the general law, and no enumeration of powers in this constitution or any law shall be deemed to limit or restrict the general grant of authority hereby conferred; but this grant of authority shall not include the power to regulate public utilities, not municipally owned, if any such regulation of public utilities is provided for by general law, nor be deemed to limit or restrict the power of the Legislature in matters relating to State affairs, to enact general laws applicable alike to all cities of the State. § [†] §

 $\S[f]$   $\S$  The power to be conferred upon the cities by this section shall include the following:  $\S[f]$   $\S$ 

 $\S[f]\S$  (a) To levy, assess and collect taxes and borrow money, within the limits prescribed by general law, and to levy and collect special assessments for benefits conferred.  $\S[f]\S$ 

**Ş** [f] **ş** (b) To furnish all local public services, to purchase, hire, construct, own, maintain and operate, or lease, public utilities local in extent and use; to acquire by condemnation, or otherwise,

183	\$[+] ş within or without the corporate limits, property necessary for any such purposes, subject to
184	restrictions imposed by general law for the protection of other communities; and to grant local
185	public utility franchises and within its powers regulate the exercise thereof. Ş [†] ş
186	§ [f] § (c) To make local public improvements and to acquire by condemnation, or
186a	otherwise,
187	property within its corporate limits necessary for such improvements; and also to acquire an excess
188	over than [that] needed for any such improvement and to sell or lease such excess property with
189	restrictions, in order to protect and preserve the improvement. § []] ş
190	<b>Ş</b> [f] ş (d) To issue and sell bonds on the security of any such excess property, or of any public
191	utility owned by the city, or of the revenues thereof, or both, including, in the case of public
192	utility, a franchise stating the terms upon which, in case of foreclosure, the purchaser may operate
193	such utility. Ş[]] ş
194	Section 9. It is proposed to enact Utah Constitution Article XI, Section 7, to read:
195	Article XI, Section 7. [Cities and towns Powers.]
196	§ [(1) Cities and towns § [shall have power to] MAY, AS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE § :
197	(a) furnish local public services;
198	(b) purchase, hire, construct, own, maintain, and operate or lease public utilities local in
199	extent and use;
200	(c) acquire by condemnation or otherwise, within or without the corporate limits, property
201	necessary for the purposes in Subsections (1)(a) and (b), subject to restrictions imposed by statute
202	for the protection of other communities;
203	(d) grant local public utility franchises and regulate their exercise; and
204	(e) make local public improvements and acquire by condemnation or otherwise property
205	within their limits necessary for such improvements, and acquire an excess over that needed for
206	any such improvement and sell or lease such excess property with restrictions, in order to protect
207	and preserve the improvement.] §
208	§ [(2) In addition to the authority provided in Subsection (1), cities] CITIES § and towns may:
209	Ş [(a)] (1) ş as prescribed by statute, levy, assess, and collect taxes, borrow money, and levy and
210	collect special assessments for benefits conferred; and
211	§ [(b)] (2) § exercise other powers and perform other functions that are reasonably related to the
212	safety, health, morals, and welfare of their inhabitants, except as the Legislature limits or prohibits
213	by statute.

214	Section 10. It is proposed to enact Utah Constitution Article XI, Section 8, to read:
215	Article XI, Section 8. [Special service districts.]
216	(1) The Legislature may by statute authorize:
217	(a) a county, city, or town to establish a special service district within all or any part of the
218	county, city, or town, to be governed by the governing authority of the county, city, or town, and
219	to provide services as provided by statute;
220	(b) a county, city, or town to levy taxes upon the taxable property in the special service
221	district for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, equipping, operating, and maintaining facilities
222	required for any or all of the services the special service district is authorized to provide; and
223	(c) a special service district to issue bonds of the special service district for the purpose
224	of acquiring, constructing, and equipping any of the facilities required for any or all of the services
225	the special service district is authorized to provide, without regard to the limitations of Article
226	XIV, Sections 3 and 4, but subject to such limitation on the aggregate amount of the bonds
227	outstanding at any one time as may be provided by statute.
228	(2) The authority to levy taxes upon the taxable property in a special service district and
229	to issue bonds payable from taxes levied on the taxable property in the special service district shall
230	be conditioned upon the assent of a majority of the qualified electors of the special service district
231	voting in an election for this purpose to be held as provided by statute.
232	(3) A special service district created by a county may contain all or part of one or more
233	cities or towns, but only with the consent of the governing authority of each city or town to be
234	included in the special service district.
235	Section 11. It is proposed to enact Utah Constitution Article XI, Section 9, to read:
236	Article XI, Section 9. [Political subdivisions of the State in addition to counties, cities,
237	towns, school districts, and special service districts.]
238	The Legislature may by statute provide for the establishment of political subdivisions of
239	the State, Ş OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES, ş in addition to counties, cities, towns, school
239a	districts, and special service districts, to
240	provide services and facilities as provided by statute. Those other political subdivisions of the
241	State \$ OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES, \$ may exercise those powers and perform those
241a	functions that are provided by statute.
242	Section 12. It is proposed to enact Utah Constitution Article XI, Section 10, to read:
243	Article XI, Section 10. [Consent of local authorities necessary for use of streets.]
244	The Legislature may not grant the right to construct and operate a street railroad, telegraph,

245	telephone, or electric light plant within a city or town without the consent of the local authorities
246	who have control of the street or highway proposed to be occupied for such purposes.
247	Section 13. It is proposed to repeal Utah Constitution Article XII, Section 8:
248	Article XII, Section 8. [Consent of local authorities necessary for use of streets.]
249	[No law shall be passed granting the right to construct and operate a street railroad,
250	telegraph, telephone or electric light plant within any city or incorporated town, without the
251	consent of the local authorities who have control of the street or highway proposed to be occupied
252	for such purposes.]
253	Section 14. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution Article XIII, Section 5, to read:
254	Article XIII, Section 5. [Counties, cities, towns, school districts, special districts, or
255	other political subdivisions to levy local taxes Sharing tax and revenues by political
256	subdivisions Debt Guaranty.]
257	(1) The Legislature [shall] may not impose taxes for the purpose of any county, city, town,
258	school district, § [special district,] ş or other [municipal corporation] political subdivision of the State,
259	but may, by [law] statute, vest in the [corporate authorities] governing bodies thereof, respectively,
260	the power to assess and collect taxes for all purposes of such [corporation] political subdivision.
261	(2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Constitution, political
262	subdivisions may share their tax and other revenues with other political subdivisions as provided
263	by statute and the State may guarantee the debt of school districts and may guarantee debt incurred
264	to refund the school district debt as provided in Article X, Section 5.
265	Section 15. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution Article XIII, Section 13, to read:
266	Article XIII, Section 13. [Revenue from highway user and motor fuel taxes to be
267	used for highway purposes.]
268	The proceeds from the imposition of any license tax, registration fee, driver education tax,
269	or other charge related to the operation of any motor vehicle upon any public highway in this State,
270	and the proceeds from the imposition of any excise tax on gasoline or other liquid motor fuels used
271	for propelling such vehicle, except for statutory refunds and adjustments allowed thereunder and
272	for costs of collection and administration, shall be used exclusively for highway purposes as
273	follows:
274	(1) the construction, improvement, repair and maintenance of city streets, county roads,
75	and State highways, including but not restricted to payment for property taken for or damaged by

276 rights of way, and for administrative costs necessarily incurred for said purposes[7]; 277 (2) the administration of a driver education program[-]; 278 (3) the enforcement of State motor vehicle and traffic laws[-]; and 279 (4) [Tourists and publicity expense in any single biennium not in excess of the lesser of 280 the following: (a) .5 per cent of the total biennial revenues from motor fuel taxes, or (b) an amount 281 equal to the 1959-1961 biennium.] the payment of the principal of and interest on any obligation of the State or any city or county, issued for any of the highway purposes set forth in Subsection 282 283 (1), and to which any of the proceeds described in this section have been pledged, including any 284 of such proceeds paid to the State or any city or county, as provided by statute. 285 Section 16. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution Article XIV, Section 3, to read: 286 S [Article XIV, Section 3. [Debts of counties, cities, towns, school districts, special 287 districts, and other political subdivisions, secured directly by property taxes, not to exceed 288 revenue -- Exception.] 289 No debt secured directly by property taxes may be created in excess of the taxes for the **290** current year [shall be created] by any county [or subdivision thereof, or by any school district **291** therein, or by any], city, town [or village], school district, special district, or [any subdivision 292 thereof in this] other political subdivision of the State[;] unless the proposition to create [such] the 293 debt[, shall have] has been submitted to a vote of [such] qualified [electors as shall have paid a 294 property tax therein, in the year preceding such election voters at the time and in the manner 295 provided by statute, and a majority of those voting thereon [shall have] has voted in favor of incurring [such] the debt.] "Article XIV, Section 3 [Certain debt of counties, cities, towns, school 296 296a districts, and other political subdivisions not to exceed revenue -- Exception.] 296b No debt ISSUED BY A COUNTY, CITY, TOWN, SCHOOL DISTRICT, OR OTHER POLITICAL 296c SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE AND DIRECTLY PAYABLE FROM AND SECURED BY AD VALOREM 296d PROPERTY TAXES LEVIED BY THE ISSUER OF THE DEBT MAY BE CREATED in excess of the taxes for the current year [shall be created by any county or subdivision thereof, or by any school district 296e 296f therein, or by any city, town or village, or any subdivision thereof in this State;] unless the proposition 296g to create [such] THE debt[, shall have] HAS been submitted to a vote of [such] qualified [electors as shall have paid a property tax therein, in the year preceding such election] VOTERS AT THE TIME 296h **AND** 296i IN THE MANNER PROVIDED BY STATUTE, and a majority of those voting thereon [shall have] HAS 296j voted in favor of incurring [such] THE debt." § 297 Section 17. It is proposed to repeal Utah Constitution Article XIV, Section 8: Article XIV, Section 8. [Special service districts.] 298 299 [(1) The Legislature by general statute may authorize:] 300 (a) any county, city, or town to establish special districts within all or any part of the

county, city, or town to be governed by the governing authority of the county, city, or town, and
each special district may provide water, sewerage, drainage, flood control, garbage, transportation,
recreation, health care, and fire protection services or any combination of these services in
accordance with that statute;]
[(h) any county sity on toxy to laxy toxog your the toxoble property in each angul

[(b) any county, city, or town to levy taxes upon the taxable property in such special district for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, equipping, operating, and maintaining facilities

307	required for any or all of such services; and]
308	[(c) any special district to issue bonds of the special district for the purpose of acquiring,
309	constructing, and equipping any of these facilities without regard to the limitations of Sections 3
310	and 4 of this Article XIV but subject to such limitation on the aggregate amount of these bonds
311	which may be outstanding at any one time as may be provided by statute.]
312	[(2) The authority to levy taxes upon the taxable property in these districts and to issue
313	bonds of these districts payable from taxes levied on the taxable property in them shall be
314	conditioned upon the assent of a majority of the qualified electors of the district voting in an
315	election for this purpose to be held as provided by statute.]
316	[(3) Any such district created by a county may contain all or part of any incorporated
317	municipality or municipalities but only with the consent of the governing authorities thereof.]
318	Section 18. Submittal to electors.
319	The lieutenant governor is directed to submit this proposed amendment to the electors of
320	the state of Utah at the next general election in the manner provided by law.
321	Section 19. Effective date.
322	If approved by a majority of the electors of the state voting at the next general election, the
323	amendment proposed by this joint resolution shall take effect on January 1, 2001.

## Legislative Review Note as of 1-6-99 11:58 AM

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel