

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING BILL OF RIGHTS DAY

2001 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

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This joint resolution of the Legislature designates December 15, 2001 as Bill of Rights Day in the state of Utah. The resolution urges government entities in the state to appropriately observe Bill of Rights Day, and that the Bill of Rights be read in public schools and in the Legislature.

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

WHEREAS, the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution are referred to as the Bill of Rights, which limit and define the powers of government;

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights recognizes, affirms, and protects fundamental, individual human rights for which the human race has struggled for thousands of years;

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights secures freedom to speak, print, read, assemble, pray, petition the government, and keep and bear arms;

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights protects Americans from unreasonable arrests, searches, excessive bail, double jeopardy, coerced confessions, and cruel and unusual punishment;

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights secures rights to due process, jury trials, counsel, and to present witnesses;

WHEREAS, designating a Bill of Rights Day would help prevent the Bill of Rights from being forgotten;

WHEREAS, since many Americans are not familiar with the Bill of Rights, Bill of Rights Day would encourage schools to instruct students about this vital aspect of American heritage;

WHEREAS, designating a Bill of Rights Day would demonstrate to the world Utah's commitment to fundamental human rights;

WHEREAS, just as celebrating religious holidays reminds Americans of their religious beliefs and traditions, Bill of Rights Day would remind Utahns of the manner in which its history and philosophy have secured the rights for which oppressed people everywhere still yearn;

WHEREAS, Bill of Rights Day would remind elected and appointed officials and employees of the state and local executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government that their authority and powers are limited;

WHEREAS, Bill of Rights Day would remind all members of government that they serve the citizens and that the citizens always hold the right to restrain government;

WHEREAS, the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights deserve celebration, and the sacrifices made to protect the Bill of Rights deserve remembrance; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution was ratified on December 15, 1791:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah designate December 15, 2001 as Bill of Rights Day in the state of Utah.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges all governmental entities in Utah to observe Bill of Rights Day in a manner that brings to mind the meaning and importance of each of the ten provisions contained in the Bill of Rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges that on Bill of Rights Day, or on the first business day afterwards, the Bill of Rights be read in all public schools and in all government meetings and courtrooms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on the first day of the 2002 General Session of the Legislature, the Bill of Rights be read aloud in its entirety in both houses of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Michael O. Leavitt, the Utah Supreme Court, the Utah Association of Counties, and the Utah League of Cities and Towns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and other government entities work with

civic organizations and groups to disseminate copies of the Bill of Rights to schools and to communicate the importance of the Bill of Rights to our American representative democracy.