

1                                   **RESOLUTION REVISING EXECUTIVE**  
2                                   **OFFICER SUCCESSION PROVISIONS**

3                                   2007 GENERAL SESSION

4                                   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Chief Sponsor: Stephen H. Urquhart**

6                                   Senate Sponsor: John W. Hickman

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8   **LONG TITLE**

9   **General Description:**

10           This joint resolution of the Legislature proposes to amend the Utah Constitution to  
11   modify provisions relating to succession in the offices of Governor and Lieutenant  
12   Governor.

13   **Highlighted Provisions:**

14           This resolution proposes to amend the Utah Constitution to:

- 15           ▶ provide that the Lieutenant Governor becomes Governor upon a vacancy in the  
16   office of Governor, that the President of the Senate becomes Governor upon  
17   simultaneous vacancies in the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and  
18   that the Speaker of the House of Representatives becomes Governor upon  
19   simultaneous vacancies in the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and  
20   President of the Senate;
- 21           ▶ provide what constitutes a vacancy in the offices of Governor and Lieutenant  
22   Governor;
- 23           ▶ provide for succession to the duties of the office of Governor during a temporary  
24   disability of the Governor;
- 25           ▶ modify provisions relating to determining the disability of the Governor or person  
26   acting as Governor;
- 27           ▶ modify the process for appointing a person to fill a vacancy in the office of  
28   Lieutenant Governor by requiring the consent of the Senate; and
- 29           ▶ provide a process for determining the disability of the Lieutenant Governor.

30 **Special Clauses:**

31 This resolution directs the lieutenant governor to submit this proposal to voters.

32 This resolution provides a contingent effective date of January 1, 2009 for this proposal.

33 **Utah Constitution Sections Affected:**

34 AMENDS:

35 **ARTICLE VII, SECTION 10**

36 **ARTICLE VII, SECTION 11**



38 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, two-thirds of all members elected to each*  
39 *of the two houses voting in favor thereof:*

40 Section 1. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution Article VII, Section 10, to read:

41 **Article VII, Section 10. [Governor's appointive power -- Governor to appoint to**  
42 **fill vacancy in other state offices -- Vacancy in the office of the Lieutenant Governor.]**

43 (1) (a) The Governor shall nominate, and by and with consent of the Senate, appoint all  
44 State and district officers whose offices are established by this Constitution, or which may be  
45 created by law, and whose appointment or election is not otherwise provided for.

46 (b) If, during the recess of the Senate, a vacancy occurs in any State or district office,  
47 the Governor shall appoint some qualified person to discharge the duties thereof until the next  
48 meeting of the Senate, when the Governor shall nominate some person to fill such office.

49 (2) If the office of [~~Lieutenant Governor,~~] State Auditor, State Treasurer, or Attorney  
50 General be vacated by death, resignation, or otherwise, it shall be the duty of the Governor to  
51 fill the same by appointment, from the same political party [~~of~~] as the removed person; and the  
52 appointee shall hold office until a successor shall be elected and qualified, as provided by law.

53 (3) (a) A vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor occurs when:

54 (i) the Lieutenant Governor dies, resigns, is removed from office following  
55 impeachment, becomes Governor under Article VII, Section 11, ceases to reside within the  
56 State, or is determined, as provided in Subsection (3)(b), to have a disability that renders the  
57 Lieutenant Governor unable to discharge the duties of office for the remainder of the

58 Lieutenant Governor's term of office; or

59 (ii) the Lieutenant Governor-elect fails to take office because of the Lieutenant  
60 Governor-elect's death, failure to qualify for office, or disability, determined as provided in  
61 Subsection (3)(b), that renders the Lieutenant Governor-elect unable to discharge the duties of  
62 office for the Lieutenant Governor-elect's full term of office.

63 (b) (i) Except when the disability of a Lieutenant Governor is determined under Article  
64 VII, Section 11, Subsection (6) because the Lieutenant Governor is acting as Governor under  
65 Article VII, Section 11, Subsection (5), the disability of a Lieutenant Governor or Lieutenant  
66 Governor-elect shall be determined by a written declaration stating that the Lieutenant  
67 Governor or Lieutenant Governor-elect is unable to discharge the powers and duties of the  
68 office.

69 (ii) The written declaration under Subsection (3)(b)(i) shall be transmitted to the  
70 Supreme Court and shall be signed by:

71 (A) the Governor; or

72 (B) (I) the Lieutenant Governor, if the Lieutenant Governor is the subject of the  
73 declaration; or

74 (II) the Lieutenant Governor-elect, if the Lieutenant Governor-elect is the subject of the  
75 declaration.

76 (iii) If the Lieutenant Governor or Lieutenant Governor-elect, as the case may be,  
77 disputes a declaration transmitted by the Governor under Subsection (3)(b)(i), the Lieutenant  
78 Governor or Lieutenant Governor-elect may, within ten days after the declaration is transmitted  
79 to the Supreme Court, file a petition requesting the Supreme Court to determine whether a  
80 disability exists as stated in the Governor's declaration.

81 (iv) In determining whether a disability exists, the Supreme Court shall follow  
82 procedures that the Court establishes, unless the Legislature by statute establishes procedures  
83 for the Supreme Court to follow in determining whether a disability exists.

84 (v) A determination of disability under this Subsection (3)(b) is final and conclusive.

85 (c) (i) If a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor occurs, the Governor shall,

86 with the consent of the Senate, appoint a person as Lieutenant Governor, to serve:

87 (A) except as provided in Subsection (3)(c)(i)(B), the remainder of the unexpired term;

88 or

89 (B) until the first Monday in January of the year following the next regular general  
90 election after the vacancy occurs, if the vacancy occurs because the Lieutenant Governor  
91 becomes Governor under Article VII, Section 11, Subsection (2).

92 (ii) The person appointed as Lieutenant Governor under Subsection (3)(c)(i) shall be  
93 from the same political party as the Governor.

94 (iii) Neither the President of the Senate nor the Speaker of the House of  
95 Representatives may, while acting as Governor under Article VII, Section 11, Subsection (4),  
96 appoint a person as Lieutenant Governor to fill a vacancy in that office.

97 Section 2. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution Article VII, Section 11, to read:

98 **Article VII, Section 11. [Vacancy in office of Governor -- Determination of**  
99 **disability.]**

100 ~~[In case of the death of the Governor, impeachment, removal from office, resignation,~~  
101 ~~or disability to discharge the duties of the office, or in case of a Governor-elect who fails to~~  
102 ~~take office, the powers and duties of the Governor shall devolve upon the Lieutenant Governor~~  
103 ~~until the disability ceases or until the next general election, when the vacancy shall be filled by~~  
104 ~~election. If, during a vacancy in the office of Governor, the Lieutenant Governor resigns, dies,~~  
105 ~~is removed, or becomes incapable of performing the duties of the office, the President of the~~  
106 ~~Senate shall act as Governor until the vacancy is filled or disability ceases. If in this case the~~  
107 ~~President of the Senate resigns, dies, is removed, or becomes incapable of performing the~~  
108 ~~duties of the office, the Speaker of the House shall act as Governor until the vacancy is filled or~~  
109 ~~disability ceases. While performing the duties of the Governor as provided in this section, the~~  
110 ~~Lieutenant Governor, the President of the Senate, or the Speaker of the House, as the case may~~  
111 ~~be, shall be entitled to the salary and emoluments of the Governor, except in cases of temporary~~  
112 ~~disability. The]~~

113 (1) A vacancy in the office of Governor occurs when:

114 (a) the Governor dies, resigns, is removed from office following impeachment, ceases  
115 to reside within the state, or is determined, as provided in Subsection (6), to have a disability  
116 that renders the Governor unable to discharge the duties of office for the remainder of the  
117 Governor's term of office; or

118 (b) the Governor-elect fails to take office because of the Governor-elect's death, failure  
119 to qualify for office, or disability, determined as provided in Subsection (6), that renders the  
120 Governor-elect unable to discharge the duties of office for the Governor-elect's full term of  
121 office.

122 (2) If a vacancy in the office of Governor occurs, the Lieutenant Governor shall  
123 become Governor, to serve:

124 (a) until the first Monday in January of the year following the next regular general  
125 election after the vacancy occurs, if the vacancy occurs during the first year of the term of  
126 office; or

127 (b) for the remainder of the unexpired term, if the vacancy occurs after the first year of  
128 the term of office.

129 (3) (a) In the event of simultaneous vacancies in the offices of Governor and  
130 Lieutenant Governor, the President of the Senate shall become Governor, to serve:

131 (i) until the first Monday in January of the year following the next regular general  
132 election after the vacancy occurs, if the vacancy occurs during the first year of the term of  
133 office; or

134 (ii) for the remainder of the unexpired term, if the vacancy occurs after the first year of  
135 the term of office.

136 (b) In the event of simultaneous vacancies in the offices of Governor, Lieutenant  
137 Governor, and President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall  
138 become Governor, to serve:

139 (i) until the first Monday in January of the year following the next regular general  
140 election after the vacancy occurs, if the vacancy occurs during the first year of the term of  
141 office; or

142 (ii) for the remainder of the unexpired term, if the vacancy occurs after the first year of  
143 the term of office.

144 (4) If a vacancy in the office of Governor occurs during the first year of the term of  
145 office, an election shall be held at the next regular general election after the vacancy occurs to  
146 elect a Governor and Lieutenant Governor, as provided in Article VII, Section 2, to serve the  
147 remainder of the unexpired term.

148 (5) (a) If the Governor is temporarily unable to discharge the duties of the office  
149 because of the Governor's temporary disability, as determined under Subsection (6), or if the  
150 Governor-elect is temporarily unable to assume the office of Governor because of the  
151 Governor-elect's temporary disability, as determined under Subsection (6), the powers and  
152 duties of the Governor shall be discharged by the Lieutenant Governor who, in addition to  
153 discharging the duties of the office of Lieutenant Governor, shall, without additional  
154 compensation, act as Governor until the disability ceases.

155 (b) (i) If, during a temporary disability of the Governor or Governor-elect, as  
156 determined under Subsection (6), a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor occurs or the  
157 Lieutenant Governor is temporarily unable to discharge the duties of the office of Governor  
158 because of the Lieutenant Governor's temporary disability, as determined under Subsection (6),  
159 the powers and duties of the Governor shall be discharged by the President of the Senate who  
160 shall act as Governor until the Governor or Governor-elect's disability ceases or, in the case of  
161 the Lieutenant Governor's temporary disability, the Lieutenant Governor's disability ceases,  
162 whichever occurs first.

163 (ii) If, during a temporary disability of the Governor or Governor-elect, as determined  
164 under Subsection (6), neither the Lieutenant Governor nor the President of the Senate is able to  
165 discharge the duties of the office of Governor because of a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant  
166 Governor or President of the Senate, or both, or because of a temporary disability of either or  
167 both officers, as determined under Subsection (6), or a combination of vacancy and temporary  
168 disability, the powers and duties of the Governor shall be discharged by the Speaker of the  
169 House of Representatives who shall act as Governor until the Governor's disability ceases or

170 until the vacancy, if applicable, in the office of President of the Senate is filled or the  
171 temporary disability, if applicable, of the Lieutenant Governor or President of the Senate  
172 ceases, whichever occurs first.

173 (c) (i) During the time that the President of the Senate acts as Governor under this  
174 Subsection (5), the President may not exercise the powers and duties of President of the Senate  
175 or Senator. The powers and duties of President of the Senate may be exercised during that time  
176 by an acting President, chosen by the Senate.

177 (ii) During the time that the Speaker of the House of Representatives acts as Governor  
178 under this Subsection (5), the Speaker may not exercise the powers and duties of Speaker of the  
179 House of Representatives or Representative. The powers and duties of Speaker of the House of  
180 Representatives may be exercised during that time by an acting Speaker, chosen by the House  
181 of Representatives.

182 (d) When acting as Governor under this Subsection (5), the President of the Senate or  
183 Speaker of the House of Representatives, as the case may be, shall be entitled to receive the  
184 salary and emoluments of the office of Governor.

185 (6) (a) A disability of the Governor, Governor-elect, or person acting as Governor shall  
186 be determined by [either a]:

187 (i) the written declaration of the Governor, Governor-elect, or person acting as  
188 Governor, transmitted to the Supreme Court [by the Governor], stating an inability to discharge  
189 the powers and duties of the office; or [by]

190 (ii) a majority of the Supreme Court [on] upon the joint request of the President or, if  
191 applicable, acting President of the Senate and the Speaker or, if applicable, acting Speaker of  
192 the House of Representatives. [Such determination shall be final and conclusive. Thereafter,  
193 when the Governor transmits to the Supreme Court a written declaration that no disability  
194 exists, the]

195 (b) The Governor or person acting as Governor shall resume or, in the case of a  
196 Governor-elect, shall assume the powers and duties of the office following a temporary  
197 disability upon the written declaration of the Governor, Governor-elect, or person acting as

198 Governor, transmitted to the Supreme Court, that no disability exists, unless the Supreme  
199 Court, upon the joint request of the President or, if applicable, acting President of the Senate  
200 and the Speaker or, if applicable, acting Speaker of the House of Representatives, or upon its  
201 own initiative, determines that the temporary disability continues and that the Governor,  
202 Governor-elect, or person acting as Governor is unable to discharge the powers and duties of  
203 the office. [~~The Lieutenant Governor shall then continue to discharge these powers and duties~~  
204 ~~as acting Governor.~~]

205 (c) Each determination of a disability under Subsection (6)(a) shall be final and  
206 conclusive.

207 (7) The Supreme Court has exclusive jurisdiction to determine all questions arising  
208 under this section.

209 **Section 3. Submittal to voters.**

210 The lieutenant governor is directed to submit this proposed amendment to the voters of  
211 the state at the next regular general election in the manner provided by law.

212 **Section 4. Effective date.**

213 If the amendment proposed by this joint resolution is approved by a majority of those  
214 voting on it at the next regular general election, the amendment shall take effect on January 1,  
215 2009.