RECYCLING OF ELECTRONIC WASTE JOINT RESOLUTION

2009 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Scott D. McCoy

House Sponsor: Rebecca Chavez-Houck

LONG TITLE

General Description:
This joint resolution of the Legislature urges the Utah Department of Environmental Quality to work with the Recycling Coalition of Utah to develop recommendations for addressing electronic waste.

Highlighted Provisions:
This resolution:

- encourages Utahns to reduce electronic waste and reuse or recycle electronic items;
- urges the Utah Department of Environmental Quality to continue working with the Recycling Coalition of Utah’s Electronic Scrap Steering Committee and other interested stakeholders to assess electronic waste issues in the state;
- urges the Recycling Coalition of Utah’s Electronic Scrap Steering Committee to study and make recommendations regarding electronic recycling to the Department of Environmental Quality for potential implementation in Utah; and
- urges the Recycling Coalition of Utah's Electronic Scrap Steering Committee to report its findings and recommendations to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee.

Special Clauses:
None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
WHEREAS, in 2008 the Consumer Electronics Association reported that the average
household has 24 electronic products, including computers, monitors, televisions, cell phones, audio/video, and other electronic products;

WHEREAS, the weight of electronic products being discarded by Utahns this year will be approximately 240,000,000 pounds, 5% or more of total disposal residential waste, and will continue to increase at significant rates as Utahns upgrade to more sophisticated models or replace electronic equipment;

WHEREAS, many of these electronic waste products contain hazardous substances such as lead, mercury, chromium, cadmium, and brominated flame retardants;

WHEREAS, these hazardous substances, when released into the environment, have caused health problems in humans, fish, other aquatic species, and wildlife;

WHEREAS, the increasing volumes and types of electronic waste are also burdening local community resources and depleting both valuable and limited landfill space;

WHEREAS, local and national recycling businesses are able to disassemble and process components of most electronic waste in an environmentally safe and cost effective manner;

WHEREAS, businesses recycling electronic waste provide jobs in Utah and may provide reusable computer resources for education;

WHEREAS, Utah communities are struggling to address the collection and recycling of electronic waste on their own;

WHEREAS, many states have implemented, or are currently evaluating, electronic recycling regulations to assist local communities and provide statewide collaboration;

WHEREAS, the not-for-profit Recycling Coalition of Utah has formed an Electronic Scrap Steering Committee, composed of representatives from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, local governments, electronic scrap recyclers, and other interested parties; and

WHEREAS, the Recycling Coalition of Utah's Electronic Scrap Steering Committee has begun discussing ways to more systematically address these issues:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah
encourages all Utah residents to reduce electronic waste and reuse or recycle electronic items.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Utah Department of Environmental Quality to continue working with the Recycling Coalition of Utah's Electronic Scrap Steering Committee and with other interested stakeholders to collaboratively assess the electronic waste issues in Utah.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Recycling Coalition of Utah's Electronic Scrap Steering Committee to review electronic recycling activities of other states, and develop recommendations to present to the Department of Environmental Quality for potential implementation in Utah.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Recycling Coalition of Utah's Electronic Scrap Steering Committee to report its findings and recommendations to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee of the Legislature by October 31, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Recycling Coalition of Utah, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Utah Association of Counties, and the chairs of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee.