

**JOINT RULES RESOLUTION ON REQUESTS FOR LEGISLATION**

2013 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Aaron Osmond**

House Sponsor: John Knotwell

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This joint resolution modifies joint rules relating to submitting requests for legislation.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ modifies the required content of a request for legislation; and
- ▶ prohibits a legislator from prioritizing a request for legislation unless the request

contains specified information.

**Special Clauses:**

None

**Legislative Rules Affected:**

AMENDS:

**JR4-2-101**

**JR4-2-102**

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

Section 1. **JR4-2-101** is amended to read:

**JR4-2-101. Requests for Legislation -- Contents -- Timing.**

(1) (a) A legislator wishing to introduce a bill or resolution shall file a Request for Legislation with the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel within the time limits established by this rule.

(b) The request for legislation shall designate:

(i) designate the chief sponsor, who is knowledgeable about and responsible for

30 providing pertinent information as the legislation is drafted; [~~and~~]

31 (ii) designate any supporting legislators from the same house as the chief sponsor who  
32 wish to cosponsor the legislation[-]; and

33 (iii) (A) provide specific or conceptual information concerning the change or addition  
34 to law or policy that the legislator intends the proposed legislation to make;

35 (B) identify the specific situation or concern that the legislator intends the legislation to  
36 address; or

37 (C) identify the general subject area within which the proposed legislation is likely to  
38 fall.

39 (2) (a) Any legislator may file a request for legislation beginning 60 days after the  
40 Legislature adjourns its annual general session sine die.

41 (b) A legislator-elect may file a request for legislation beginning on the November 15  
42 after the annual general election at which the legislator was elected.

43 (c) (i) If an incumbent legislator does not file to run for reelection or is defeated in a  
44 political party convention, primary election, or general election, that legislator may not file any  
45 requests for legislation as of that date.

46 (ii) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall abandon each  
47 request for legislation from the legislator that is pending on that date unless, within 30 days  
48 after that date, another member of the Legislature qualified to file a request for legislation  
49 assumes sponsorship of the legislation.

50 (d) (i) If, for any reason, a legislator who filed a request for legislation is unavailable to  
51 serve in the next annual general session, the former legislator shall seek another legislator to  
52 assume sponsorship of each request for legislation filed by the legislator who is unavailable to  
53 serve.

54 (ii) If the former legislator is unable to find another legislator to sponsor the legislation  
55 within 30 days, the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall abandon each  
56 pending request for legislation from the legislator who is unavailable to serve.

57 (3) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(c), a legislator may not file a Request for

58 Legislation with the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel after noon on the 11th  
59 day of the annual general session.

60 (b) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(c), by noon on the 11th day of the annual  
61 general session, each legislator shall, for each Request for Legislation on file with the Office of  
62 Legislative Research and General Counsel, either approve the request for numbering or  
63 abandon the request.

64 (c) After the date established by this Subsection (3), a legislator may file a Request for  
65 Legislation and automatically approve the legislation for numbering if:

66 (i) for House legislation, the Representative makes a motion to request a bill or  
67 resolution for drafting and introduction and that motion is approved by a constitutional  
68 majority of the House; or

69 (ii) for Senate legislation, the Senator makes a motion to request a bill or resolution for  
70 drafting and introduction and that motion is approved by a constitutional majority vote of the  
71 Senate.

72 (4) A legislator wishing to obtain funding for a project, program, or entity, when that  
73 funding request does not require that a statute be enacted, repealed, or amended, may not file a  
74 Request for Legislation but instead shall file a request for appropriation by following the  
75 procedures and requirements of JR4-3-101.

76 Section 2. **JR4-2-102** is amended to read:

77 **JR4-2-102. Drafting and Prioritizing Legislation.**

78 (1) (a) Requests for legislation shall be drafted on a first-in, first-out basis.

79 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(a), the following requests for legislation shall be  
80 drafted before other requests for legislation when sufficient drafting information is available:

81 (i) a request for legislation that is prioritized by a legislator under Subsection (2); and

82 (ii) a request for legislation that is prioritized by the majority vote of an interim  
83 committee.

84 (2) (a) Beginning on the first day on which a request for legislation may be filed under  
85 JR4-2-101, a legislator may designate up to three requests for legislation as priority requests

86 subject to the following deadlines:

87 (i) priority request number one must be requested on or before the first Thursday in  
88 December, or the following business day if the first Thursday falls on a holiday;

89 (ii) priority request number two must be requested on or before the first Thursday in  
90 January, or the following business day if the first Thursday falls on a holiday; and

91 (iii) priority request number three must be requested on or before the first Thursday of  
92 the annual general session.

93 (b) A legislator who fails to make a priority request on or before a deadline loses that  
94 priority request. However, the legislator is not prohibited from using any remaining priority  
95 requests that are associated with a later deadline, if available.

96 (c) A legislator who begins serving after a deadline has passed is entitled to use only  
97 those priority requests that are available under an unexpired deadline.

98 (d) A legislator may not designate a request for legislation as a priority request unless  
99 the request:

100 (i) provides specific or conceptual information concerning the change or addition to  
101 law or policy that the legislator intends the proposed legislation to make; or

102 (ii) identifies the specific situation or concern that the legislator intends the legislation  
103 to address.

104 (3) A legislator may not:

105 (a) revoke a priority designation once it has been requested;

106 (b) transfer a priority designation to a different request for legislation; or

107 (c) transfer a priority designation to another legislator.

108 (4) Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the Office of Legislative Research and  
109 General Counsel shall reserve as many bill numbers as necessary to allow each request for  
110 legislation that has been prioritized as permitted under Subsection (1)(b) to receive a lower bill  
111 number than non-prioritized requests.