

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HONORING LIN-MANUEL
MIRANDA, COMPOSER OF THE MUSICAL HAMILTON**

2016 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ken Ivory

Senate Sponsor: Jim Dabakis

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This resolution honors Lin-Manuel Miranda for his contributions to art and civics education through his composition of the musical "Hamilton."

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

▶ recognizes the work of Lin-Manuel Miranda in composing the smash-hit musical "Hamilton," which has captivated audiences worldwide, regardless of economic circumstances or political stances; and

▶ encourages artists in all mediums to use their skills and passions to explore American history.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, Lin-Manuel Miranda is the composer of "Hamilton," a critically acclaimed hit musical that tells the story of America's Founding Fathers through hip hop music;

WHEREAS, "Hamilton" opened in 2015 and has smashed Broadway box office records ever since, resulting in sold-out shows through 2016;

WHEREAS, the "Hamilton" soundtrack debuted at No. 12 on the Billboard album



28 charts and eventually went to No. 1 on the Rap Albums chart, making the musical accessible to
29 people who have not been able to see the staged performance, and resulting in one million
30 comments on Twitter in 2015 alone;

31 WHEREAS, Miranda has created something truly exceptional with the musical
32 "Hamilton" -- an experience that is captivating people worldwide, regardless of economic
33 circumstances and political differences;

34 WHEREAS, "Hamilton" tells the rich story of how our nation was miraculously built,
35 the product of the work of Founding Fathers who were brilliant, passionate, and deeply flawed
36 human beings;

37 WHEREAS, Miranda's play explains the timeless principles that founded America,
38 makes them current for modern audiences, and in doing so reaches audiences across all
39 spectrums;

40 WHEREAS, "Hamilton" deliberately cast actors of all races and ethnic backgrounds,
41 resulting in almost entirely minority cast, including a black Thomas Jefferson, Asian Eliza
42 Schuyler Hamilton, and Hispanic Miranda portraying the titular Alexander Hamilton himself;

43 WHEREAS, this casting decision has resulted in Americans of all races being able to
44 envision themselves as part of the American Revolution and the founding of our nation;

45 WHEREAS, Miranda has created a play that not only transformed the current landscape
46 of Broadway, but will have impacts on Americans and civic awareness for decades to come;

47 WHEREAS, Miranda was born in Manhattan, New York City, of Puerto Rican
48 ancestry, and graduated from Wesleyan University in 2002 where he studied performing arts
49 and particularly many genres of music, including freestyle rap, bodega, and salsa;

50 WHEREAS, before launching into the national consciousness with "Hamilton,"
51 Miranda taught high school English while writing his off-Broadway musical production "In the
52 Heights," which won the 2008 Tony Award for Best Musical and Best Original Score and the
53 2009 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album, demonstrating his dedication to
54 students and learning;

55 WHEREAS, Miranda starred in his Broadway version of "In the Heights," earning a
56 2009 nomination for Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical;

57 WHEREAS, the story of Alexander Hamilton's life captured Miranda's attention and
58 imagination after he read Pulitzer Prize winning author Ron Chernow's book "Alexander

59 Hamilton"; and

60 WHEREAS, Miranda has successfully integrated the musical arts, particularly rap, with
61 American history in a novel and creative approach for audiences -- in his own words, creating
62 "a story about America then, told by America now":

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
64 Governor concurring therein, honors Lin-Manuel Miranda for his contributions to the arts and
65 to our shared vision that the history of the founding of the United States can and should be
66 taught and shared with all citizens.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage artists
68 in all mediums to use their talents and passions to continue to explore the rich, unique history
69 of America.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Lin-Manuel
71 Miranda.

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel