

1 **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING RESTORATION OF**
2 **UTAH LAKE**

3 2017 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Chief Sponsor: Mike K. McKell**

6 Senate Sponsor: Deidre M. Henderson

8 **LONG TITLE**

9 **General Description:**

10 This concurrent resolution addresses the condition of Utah Lake.

11 **Highlighted Provisions:**

12 This resolution:

- 13 ▶ urges speedy and comprehensive solutions to restore Utah Lake and improve its
14 water quality;
- 15 ▶ emphasizes removing invasive plant species, restoring littoral zone plant
16 communities, and restoring native plant species on Utah Lake's shoreline; and
- 17 ▶ seeks to ensure recreational opportunities on Utah Lake.

18 **Special Clauses:**

19 None

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

22 WHEREAS, the state of Utah is committed to conserving Utah Lake, restoring Utah
23 Lake's water quality, improving habitat for fish and wildlife, and enhancing recreational
24 opportunities for Utah's citizens;

25 WHEREAS, Utah Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the state of Utah;

26 WHEREAS, Utah Lake has an extensive shoreline, offers prime recreational
27 opportunities, and serves a vital water storage and supply function to residents of the Wasatch



28 Front, which includes Utah County and Salt Lake County;

29 WHEREAS, multiple factors have presented significant challenges to Utah Lake,
30 including algal blooms, loss of native vegetation, invasive fish and plant species, loss of littoral
31 zone plants, suspended silt on the lake bottom, and reduced water clarity;

32 WHEREAS, the state of Utah has begun experimental restoration of various aspects of
33 Utah Lake, including removing invasive phragmites, removing non-native carp, restoring the
34 native June sucker, and other efforts, to improve water quality through partnerships between
35 the Department of Natural Resources, the Division of Wildlife Resources, the Division of
36 Water Quality, and the Utah Lake Commission;

37 WHEREAS, more comprehensive and extensive restoration investment, planning, and
38 implementation are needed to address the issues facing Utah Lake; and

39 WHEREAS, the state of Utah is committed to work in collaboration with local
40 stakeholders to speed the restoration of Utah Lake for the benefit of aquatic species, wildlife,
41 and Utah's citizens:

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
43 Governor concurring therein, urges an acceleration of comprehensive solutions to restore Utah
44 Lake and improve its water quality.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge solutions to
46 address challenges to Utah Lake, including water clarity, water quality, invasive species, and
47 preserving the storage and water supply functions.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge solutions to
49 restore a vibrant fishery, including restoring the Bonneville cutthroat trout population and
50 recovering the June sucker, while improving habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife species.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge solutions to
52 remove invasive plant species, restore littoral zone plant communities, and restore native plant
53 species on Utah Lake's shoreline should be accelerated.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge solutions to
55 maximize and ensure recreational access and opportunities on Utah Lake, while also improving
56 the use of the lake for Utah and its citizens.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the copies of this resolution be forwarded to the
58 Department of Natural Resources, the Division of Wildlife Resources, the Division of Water

59 Quality, and the Utah Lake Commission, to encourage pursuit of all reasonably available
60 solutions to accelerate comprehensive and lasting restoration of Utah Lake.

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel