

JOINT RULES RESOLUTION ON PROCEDURE

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Rebecca Chavez-Houck

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This joint resolution modifies the request for legislation process.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ modifies what information is required in a request for legislation;
- ▶ authorizes certain leadership to file boxcars;
- ▶ increases the number of priorities that can be requested, including amending the deadlines for prioritizing;
- ▶ addresses the order in which prioritized legislation is drafted; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Special Clauses:

None

Legislative Rules Affected:

AMENDS:

JR4-1-101

JR4-2-101

JR4-2-102

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

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



28 **JR4-1-101. Definitions.**

29 As used in this title:

30 (1) "Bill" means legislation introduced for consideration by the Legislature that does
31 any, some, or all of the following to Utah statutes:

- 32 (a) amends;
- 33 (b) enacts;
- 34 (c) repeals;
- 35 (d) repeals and reenacts; or
- 36 (e) renumbers and amends.

37 (2) "Boldface" means the brief descriptive summary of the contents of a statutory
38 section prepared by the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel that is printed for
39 each title, chapter, part, and section of the Utah Code.

40 (3) "Boxcar" means a request for legislation that:

41 (a) only identifies the general subject matter of an area within which the proposed
42 legislation is likely to fall; or

43 (b) lacks sufficient detail to allow a drafter to reasonably understand the legislation's
44 purpose.

45 [~~3~~] (4) "Concurrent resolution" means a written proposal of the Legislature and
46 governor, which, to be approved, must be passed by both houses of the Legislature and
47 concurred to by the governor.

48 [~~4~~] (5) "Constitutional joint resolution" means a joint resolution proposing to amend,
49 enact, or repeal portions of the Utah Constitution which, to be approved for submission to the
50 voters, must be passed by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the Legislature.

51 [~~5~~] (6) "House resolution" means a written proposal of the House of Representatives
52 which, to be approved, must be passed by the House of Representatives.

53 [~~6~~] (7) "Joint resolution" means a written proposal of the Legislature which, to be
54 approved, must be passed by both houses of the Legislature.

55 [~~7~~] (8) "Laws of Utah" means all of the laws currently in effect in Utah.

56 [~~8~~] (9) "Legislation" means bills and resolutions introduced for consideration by the
57 Legislature.

58 [~~9~~] (10) "Request for legislation" means a formal request from a legislator or interim

59 committee that a bill or resolution be prepared by the Office of Legislative Research and
60 General Counsel.

61 ~~[(10)]~~ (11) "Resolution" includes constitutional joint resolutions, other joint
62 resolutions, concurrent resolutions, House resolutions, and Senate resolutions.

63 ~~[(11)]~~ (12) "Senate resolution" means a written proposal of the Senate which, to be
64 approved, must be passed by the Senate.

65 ~~[(12)]~~ (13) "Statute" means a law that has met the constitutional requirements for
66 enactment.

67 ~~[(13)]~~ (14) "Statutory section" means the unique unit of the laws of Utah that is
68 identified by a title, chapter, and section number.

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

70 **JR4-2-101. Requests for legislation -- Contents -- Timing.**

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

74 (b) The request for legislation shall:

75 (i) designate the chief sponsor, who is knowledgeable about and responsible for
76 providing pertinent information as the legislation is drafted;

77 (ii) designate any supporting legislators from the same house as the chief sponsor who
78 wish to cosponsor the legislation; and

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

81 (B) identify the specific situation or concern that the legislator intends the legislation to
82 address~~;~~ or.

83 ~~[(C) identify the general subject area within which the proposed legislation is likely to~~
84 ~~fall.]~~

85 (c) Except as provided in Subsection (5), a legislator may not file a boxcar.

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

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

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

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

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

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

104 (3) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(c), a legislator may not file a [~~Request for~~
105 ~~Legislation~~] request for legislation with the Office of Legislative Research and General
106 Counsel after noon on the 11th day of the annual general session.

107 (b) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(c), by noon on the 11th day of the annual
108 general session, each legislator shall, for each [~~Request for Legislation~~] request for legislation
109 on file with the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, either approve the request
110 for numbering or abandon the request.

111 (c) After the date established by this Subsection (3), a legislator may file a [~~Request for~~
112 ~~Legislation~~] request for legislation and automatically approve the legislation for numbering if:

113 (i) for House legislation, the representative makes a motion to request a bill or
114 resolution for drafting and introduction and that motion is approved by a constitutional
115 majority of the House; or

116 (ii) for Senate legislation, the senator makes a motion to request a bill or resolution for
117 drafting and introduction and that motion is approved by a constitutional majority vote of the
118 Senate.

119 (4) A legislator wishing to obtain funding for a project, program, or entity, when that
120 funding request does not require that a statute be enacted, repealed, or amended, may not file a

121 [~~Request for Legislation~~] request for legislation but instead shall file a request for appropriation
 122 by following the procedures and requirements of [JR4-3-101](#).

123 (5) (a) Each of the following may submit up to five requests for legislation that are
 124 boxcars:

125 (i) the majority leader of the House of Representatives;

126 (ii) the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

127 (iii) the majority leader of the Senate; or

128 (iv) the minority leader of the Senate.

129 (b) The persons listed in Subsection (5)(a) may transfer a request for boxcar legislation
 130 to a member of the person's caucus if the member provides the information required by
 131 Subsection (1)(b)(iii).

132 Section 3. **JR4-2-102** is amended to read:

133 **JR4-2-102. Drafting and prioritizing legislation.**

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

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

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

138 (ii) a request for legislation that is requested by the majority vote of an interim
 139 committee.

140 (2) (a) Beginning on the first day on which a request for legislation may be filed under
 141 [JR4-2-101](#), a legislator may designate up to [~~three~~] four requests for legislation as priority
 142 requests subject to the following deadlines:

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

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

147 (iii) priority request [~~number~~] numbers three and four must be requested on or before
 148 the first Thursday of the annual general session.

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

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

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

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

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

160 (e) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(a), a drafting attorney shall draft prioritized
161 requests for legislation that are assigned to the drafting attorney in the order that the requests
162 for legislation are prioritized.

163 (3) A legislator may not:

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

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

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

167 (4) Except as provided under [JR4-2-502](#) or as otherwise provided in these rules, the
168 Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall:

169 (a) reserve as many bill numbers as necessary to number the bills recommended by an
170 interim committee; and

171 (b) number all other legislation in the order in which the legislation is approved by the
172 sponsor for numbering.

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel