

26	AMENDS:
27	17-52a-103, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68
28	17-52a-203, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68
29	17-52a-204, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68
30	17-52a-403, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68
31	17-52a-405, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68
32	17-52a-501, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68
33	17-52a-503, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68
34	17-52a-505, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 68
35	REPEALS:
36	17-35b-301, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2000, Chapter 133
37	17-35b-302, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 329
38	17-35b-303, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 297
39	17-35b-304, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 297
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41	Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
42	Section 1. Section 17-52a-103 is amended to read:
43	17-52a-103. Forms of county government County commission form required
44	unless another is adopted Restrictions on form of county government.
45	(1) Subject to Subsection (2), each county shall operate under one of the following
46	forms of county government:
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48	(a) for a county of any class:
	(a) for a county of any class:  [(a)] (i) the county commission form under Section 17-52a-201; or
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49 50	[(a)] (i) the county commission form under Section 17-52a-201; or
	[(a)] (i) the county commission form under Section 17-52a-201; or [(b)] (ii) the expanded county commission form under Section 17-52a-202; or
50	[(a)] (i) the county commission form under Section 17-52a-201; or [(b)] (ii) the expanded county commission form under Section 17-52a-202; or (b) for counties of the first, second, or third class:
50 51	[(a)] (i) the county commission form under Section 17-52a-201; or [(b)] (ii) the expanded county commission form under Section 17-52a-202; or (b) for counties of the first, second, or third class: [(c)] (i) the county executive and council form under Section 17-52a-203; or
<ul><li>50</li><li>51</li><li>52</li></ul>	[(a)] (i) the county commission form under Section 17-52a-201; or [(b)] (ii) the expanded county commission form under Section 17-52a-202; or (b) for counties of the first, second, or third class: [(c)] (i) the county executive and council form under Section 17-52a-203; or [(d)] (ii) the council-manager form under Section 17-52a-204.
<ul><li>50</li><li>51</li><li>52</li><li>53</li></ul>	[(a)] (i) the county commission form under Section 17-52a-201; or [(b)] (ii) the expanded county commission form under Section 17-52a-202; or (b) for counties of the first, second, or third class: [(c)] (i) the county executive and council form under Section 17-52a-203; or [(d)] (ii) the council-manager form under Section 17-52a-204. (2) Unless a county adopts another form of government as provided in this chapter, the

) /	Subsection (2):
58	(i) the county's legislative body shall, before July 1, 2018, initiate the process under
59	Section 17-52a-302 of changing the county's form of government;
60	(ii) the county shall hold a special election described in Section 17-52a-304 on
51	November 6, 2018;
52	(iii) if the voters approve the appointment of a study committee at the special election
63	described in Subsection (3)(a)(ii):
54	(A) the study committee may not recommend under Section 17-52a-403 that the county
65	retain the county's current form of government; and
66	(B) the county shall hold an election described in Section 17-52a-501 before December
67	31, 2020, on an optional plan that the study committee creates; and
68	(iv) the registered voters of the county may not repeal an optional plan under Section
59	17-52a-505 that is adopted at an election described in Subsection (3)(a)(iii)(B).
70	(b) If the voters of a county described in Subsection (3)(a) do not approve a change in
71	the county's form of government at an election described in Subsection (3)(a)(iii)(B) before
72	December 31, 2020:
73	(i) the county shall operate under the county commission form of government under
74	Section 17-52a-201 in the same manner that a county is required under Subsection
75	[ <del>17-52a-102</del> ] (2) to operate under that form of government if the county does not adopt another
76	form of government; and
77	(ii) the county shall transition to the form of government described in Subsection
78	(3)(b)(i) in the same manner as if the voters of the county had approved the change in the form
79	of government described in Subsection (3)(b)(i) in the applicable election described in
30	Subsection (3)(b).
31	(4) In a county of the fourth, fifth, or sixth class that operates under the county
32	executive and council form under Section 17-52a-203 or under the council-manager form
33	under Section 17-52a-204:
34	(a) before July 1, 2019, the county's legislative body shall initiate the process under
35	Section 17-52a-302 of changing the county's form of government; and
36	(b) the county shall hold an election described in Section 17-52a-501 before December
37	31, 2021, to transition to the county commission form of government under Section

88	<u>17-52a-201.</u>
89	Section 2. Section 17-52a-203 is amended to read:
90	17-52a-203. County executive-council form of county government.
91	(1) (a) The following shall govern a county of the first, second, or third class operating
92	under the form of government known as the "county executive-council" form:
93	(i) an elected county council;
94	(ii) an elected county executive; and
95	(iii) other officers and employees authorized by law.
96	(b) The optional plan shall provide for the qualifications, time, and manner of election,
97	term of office and compensation of the county executive.
98	(2) The county executive is the chief executive officer or body of the county.
99	(3) In the county executive-council form of county government:
100	(a) the county council is the county legislative body and has the powers, duties, and
101	functions of a county legislative body under Chapter 53, Part 2, County Legislative Body; and
102	(b) the county executive has the powers, duties, and functions of a county executive
103	under Chapter 53, Part 3, County Executive.
104	(4) References in any statute or state rule to the "governing body" or the "board of
105	county commissioners" of the county, in the county executive-council form of county
106	government, means:
107	(a) the county council, with respect to legislative functions, duties, and powers; and
108	(b) the county executive, with respect to executive functions, duties, and powers.
109	Section 3. Section 17-52a-204 is amended to read:
110	17-52a-204. Council-manager form of county government.
111	(1) (a) The following shall govern a county of the first, second, or third class operating
112	under the form of government known as the "council-manager" form:
113	(i) an elected county council;
114	(ii) a county manager appointed by the council; and
115	(iii) other officers and employees authorized by law.
116	(b) The optional plan shall provide for the qualifications, time and manner of
117	appointment subject to Subsections (6) and (7), term of office, compensation, and removal of
118	the county manager.

119	(2) The county manager is the administrative head of the county government and has
120	the powers, functions, and duties of a county executive, except:
121	(a) as the county legislative body otherwise provides by ordinance; and
122	(b) that the county manager may not veto any ordinances enacted by the council.
123	(3) (a) A member of the council may not directly or indirectly, by suggestion or
124	otherwise:
125	(i) attempt to influence or coerce the manager in:
126	(A) making any appointment;
127	(B) removing any officer or employee; or
128	(C) purchasing supplies;
129	(ii) attempt to exact any promise relative to any appointment from any candidate for
130	manager; or
131	(iii) discuss directly or indirectly with the manager the matter of specific appointments
132	to any county office or employment.
133	(b) (i) A person who violates the provisions of this Subsection (3) shall forfeit the
134	office of the offending member of the council.
135	(ii) Nothing in this section shall be construed, however, as prohibiting the council
136	while in open session from fully and freely discussing with or suggesting to the manager
137	anything pertaining to county affairs or the interests of the county.
138	(iii) Neither manager nor any person in the employ of the county shall take part in
139	securing, or contributing any money toward, the nomination or election of any candidate for a
140	county office.
141	(iv) The optional plan may provide procedures for implementing this Subsection (3).
142	(4) In the council-manager form of county government:
143	(a) the legislative powers of the county are vested in the county council; and
144	(b) the executive powers of the county are vested in the county manager.
145	(5) A reference in statute or state rule to the "governing body" or the "board of county
146	commissioners" of the county, in the council-manager form of county government, means:
147	(a) the county council, with respect to legislative functions, duties, and powers; and
148	(b) the county manager, with respect to executive functions, duties, and powers.
149	(6) (a) As used in this Subsection (6), "interim vacancy period" means the period of

150	time that:
151	(i) begins on the day on which a general election described in Section 17-16-6 is held
152	to elect a council member; and
153	(ii) ends on the day on which the council member-elect begins the council member's
154	term.
155	(b) (i) The county council may not appoint a county manager during an interim vacancy
156	period.
157	(ii) Notwithstanding Subsection (6)(b)(i):
158	(A) the county council may appoint an interim county manager during an interim
159	vacancy period; and
160	(B) the interim county manager's term shall expire once a new county manager is
161	appointed by the new administration after the interim vacancy period has ended.
162	(c) Subsection (6)(b) does not apply if all the county council members who held office
163	on the day of the county general election whose term of office was vacant for the election are
164	re-elected to the council for the following term.
165	(7) A county council that appoints a county manager in accordance with this section
166	may not, on or after May 10, 2011, enter into an employment contract that contains an
167	automatic renewal provision with the county manager.
168	Section 4. Section 17-52a-403 is amended to read:
169	17-52a-403. Study committee Members Powers and duties Report
170	Services provided by county.
171	(1) (a) A study committee consists of seven members.
172	(b) A member of a study committee may not receive compensation for service on the
173	committee.
174	(c) The county legislative body shall reimburse each member of a study committee for
175	necessary expenses incurred in performing the member's duties on the study committee.
176	(2) A study committee may:
177	(a) adopt rules for the study committee's own organization and procedure and to fill a
178	vacancy in its membership;
179	(b) establish advisory boards or committees and include on the advisory boards or

committees persons who are not members of the study committee; and

- (c) request the assistance and advice of any officers or employees of any agency of state or local government.
  - (3) (a) A study committee shall:
- (i) study the form of government within the county and compare it with other forms available under this chapter;
- (ii) (A) except as provided in Subsection (3)(a)(ii)(B), determine whether the administration of local government in the county could be strengthened, made more clearly responsive or accountable to the people, or significantly improved in the interest of economy and efficiency by a change in the form of county government; or
- (B) if the county is required to change forms of government under Section 17-52a-103, determine which of the available forms of county government would best strengthen the administration of local government in the county, make the county government more clearly responsive or accountable to the people, or significantly improve the county government in the interest of economy and efficiency;
- (iii) hold public hearings and community forums and other means the committee considers appropriate to disseminate information and stimulate public discussion of the committee's purposes, progress, and conclusions; and
- (iv) file a written report of the study committee's findings and recommendations with the county executive, the county legislative body, and the county clerk no later than one year after the convening of the study committee's first meeting under Section 17-52a-402.
- (b) Within 10 days after the day on which the study committee submits the study committee's report under Subsection (3)(a)(iv) to the county legislative body, if the report recommends a change in the form of county government, the county clerk shall send to the county attorney or, if the county does not have a county attorney, to the district attorney, a copy of each optional plan recommended in the report for review in accordance with Section 17-52a-406.
  - (4) Each study committee report under Subsection (3)[(d)](a)(iv) shall include:
- (a) the study committee's recommendation as to whether the form of county government should be changed to another form authorized under this chapter;
- (b) if the study committee recommends changing the form of government, a complete detailed draft of a proposed plan to change the form of county government, including all

(i) for a county of any class:

212	necessary implementing provisions; and
213	(c) any additional recommendations the study committee considers appropriate to
214	improve the efficiency and economy of the administration of local government within the
215	county.
216	(5) (a) If the study committee's report recommends a change in the form of county
217	government, the study committee may conduct additional public hearings after filing the report
218	under Subsection (3)[(d)](a)(iv) and, following the hearings and subject to Subsection (5)(b),
219	alter the report.
220	(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (5)(a), the study committee may not make an alteration
221	to the report:
222	(i) that would recommend the adoption of an optional form different from that
223	recommended in the original report; or
224	(ii) within the 120-day period before the election under Section 17-52a-501.
225	(6) Each meeting that the study committee holds shall be open to the public.
226	(7) If the study committee's report does not recommend a change in the form of county
227	government, the report is final, the study committee is dissolved, and the process to change the
228	county's form of government is concluded.
229	(8) The county legislative body shall provide for the study committee:
230	(a) suitable meeting facilities;
231	(b) necessary secretarial services;
232	(c) necessary printing and photocopying services;
233	(d) necessary clerical and staff assistance; and
234	(e) adequate funds for the employment of independent legal counsel and professional
235	consultants that the study committee reasonably determines to be necessary to help the study
236	committee fulfill its duties.
237	Section 5. Section 17-52a-405 is amended to read:
238	17-52a-405. Plan may propose changing forms of county government Partisan
239	elections.
240	(1) (a) The optional plan proponent described in Subsection 17-52a-404(1) shall ensure
241	that each optional plan proposes changing the form of county government to:

243	[(i)] (A) the county commission form under Section 17-52a-201; or
244	[(ii)] (B) the expanded county commission form under Section 17-52a-202; or
245	(ii) for a county of the first, second, or third class:
246	[(iii)] (A) the county executive and council form under Section 17-52a-203; or
247	[(iv)] (B) the council-manager form under Section 17-52a-204.
248	(b) The optional plan proponent described in Subsection 17-52a-404(1) may not
249	recommend an optional plan that:
250	(i) proposes changing the form of government to a form not included in Subsection
251	(1)(a);
252	(ii) provides for the nonpartisan election of elected officers;
253	(iii) imposes a limit on the number of terms or years that an elected officer may serve;
254	(iv) provides for elected officers to be subject to a recall election; or
255	(v) provides, in a county with a population of 225,000 or more, for a full-time county
256	commission in an expanded county commission form of government under Section
257	17-52a-202.
258	[(2) In addition to proposing the adoption of any one of the optional forms of county
259	government under Subsection (1)(a), an optional plan may also propose the adoption of any
260	one of the structural forms of county government provided under Chapter 35b, Part 3,
261	Structural Forms of County Government.]
262	[(3)] (2) A county that provides for the election of the county's elected officers through
263	a partisan election may not change to a process that provides for the election of the county's
264	elected officers through a nonpartisan election.
265	Section 6. Section 17-52a-501 is amended to read:
266	17-52a-501. Election on recommended optional plan Resolution or petition to
267	submit plan to voters in certain counties.
268	(1) If the county or district attorney finds that a proposed optional plan does not violate
269	a statutory or constitutional provision under Section 17-52a-406 or, for a county under a
270	pending process described in Section 17-52a-104, under Section 17-52-204 as that section was
271	in effect on March 14, 2018:
272	(a) in a county with a population of 225,000 or more or in a county in which voters
273	approved the appointment of a study committee by a vote of at least 60%, the county legislative

- body shall hold an election on the optional plan under Subsection (3); or
  - (b) in a county with a population of less than 225,000 in which voters did not approve the appointment of a study committee by a vote of at least 60%, an election may not be held for the optional plan under Subsection (3) until:
  - (i) the county legislative body adopts a resolution to submit the optional plan to voters; or
    - (ii) the county clerk certifies a petition under Subsection (2).
  - (2) (a) In a county with a population of less than 225,000 in which voters did not approve the appointment of a study committee by a vote of at least 60%, to qualify the proposed optional plan described in Subsection (1) for an election described in Subsection (3), registered voters may file a petition with the county clerk that:
    - (i) requests that the proposed optional plan be submitted to voters; and
  - (ii) is signed by registered voters residing in the county equal in number to at least 5% of the total number of votes cast in the county for all candidates for president of the United States at the most recent election at which a president of the United States was elected.
  - (b) Registered voters who file a petition under Subsection (2)(a) shall, at the time the registered voters file the petition:
    - (i) designate up to five of the petition signers as sponsors;
  - (ii) provide the county clerk with the mailing address and telephone number of each petition sponsor; and
    - (iii) designate one of the petition sponsors as the contact sponsor.
  - (c) The county clerk shall certify or reject a petition filed under this Subsection (2) in the same manner as the county clerk certifies or rejects a petition under Subsection 17-52a-303(3).
  - (3) When the conditions described in Subsection (1) are met, a county shall hold an election on the optional plan at the next regular general or municipal general election that is not less than 60 days after:
  - (a) for a county with a population of 225,000 or more or for a county in which voters approved the appointment of a study committee by a vote of at least 60%, the day on which the county or district attorney submits to the county clerk the attorney's report described in Subsection 17-52a-406(4) or, for a county under a pending process described in Section

305	17-52a-104, the attorney's report that is described in Section 17-52-204 as that section was in
306	effect on March 14, 2018 and that contains a statement described in Subsection 17-52-204(5)
307	as that subsection was in effect on March 14, 2018; or
308	(b) for a county with a population of less than 225,000 in which voters did not approve
309	the appointment of a study committee by a vote of at least 60%, the day on which:
310	(i) the county legislative body adopts a resolution under Subsection (1)(b)(i); or
311	(ii) the county clerk certifies a petition under Subsection (2)(b).
312	(4) (a) [The] Except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), the county clerk shall prepare the
313	ballot for an election under this section so that the question on the ballot states substantially the
314	following:
315	"Shall County adopt the alternate form of government known
316	as the(insert the proposed form of government) that the study committee has recommended?"
317	(b) The county clerk shall prepare the ballot for an election described in Subsection
318	17-52a-103(4)(b)(ii) with:
319	(i) a question that asks substantially the following:
320	"Shall County adopt the alternate form of government known as the
321	(insert the proposed form of government that the study committee has recommended), or shall
322	County transition directly to the three-member county commission form of
323	government?"; and
324	(ii) available responses for the voters to select that contain only the options described
325	in the question in Subsection (4)(b)(i).
326	(5) The county clerk shall:
327	(a) publish the complete text of the proposed optional plan in a newspaper of general
328	circulation within the county at least once during two different calendar weeks within the
329	30-day period immediately before the date of the election described in Subsection (1);
330	(b) post the complete text of the proposed optional plan in a conspicuous place on the
331	county's website during the 45-day period that immediately precedes the election on the
332	optional plan; and
333	(c) make a complete copy of the optional plan and the study committee report available
334	free of charge to any member of the public who requests a copy.
335	(6) A county clerk shall declare an optional plan as adopted by the voters if a majority

336	of voters voting on the optional plan vote in favor of the optional plan.
337	Section 7. Section 17-52a-503 is amended to read:
338	17-52a-503. Adoption of optional plan Election of new county officers Effect
339	of adoption.
340	(1) If a proposed optional plan is approved at an election held under Section
341	17-52a-501:
342	(a) the elected county officers specified in the plan shall be elected at the next regular
343	general election following the election under Section 17-52a-501, according to the procedure
344	and schedule established under Title 20A, Election Code, for the election of county officers;
345	(b) the proposed optional plan:
346	(i) becomes effective according to the optional plan's terms;
347	(ii) subject to Subsection 17-52a-404(1)(c), at the time specified in the optional plan, is
348	a public record open to inspection by the public; and
349	(iii) is judicially noticeable by all courts;
350	(c) the county clerk shall, within 10 days of the canvass of the election, file with the
351	lieutenant governor a copy of the optional plan, certified by the clerk to be a true and correct
352	copy;
353	(d) all public officers and employees shall cooperate fully in making the transition
354	between forms of county government; and
355	(e) the county legislative body may enact and enforce necessary ordinances to bring
356	about an orderly transition to the new form of government, including any transfer of power,
357	records, documents, properties, assets, funds, liabilities, or personnel that are consistent with
358	the approved optional plan and necessary or convenient to place it into full effect.
359	(2) Adoption of an optional plan changing [only] the form of county government
360	[without adopting one of the structural forms under Chapter 35b, Part 3, Structural Forms of
361	County Government,] does not alter or affect the boundaries, organization, powers, duties, or
362	functions of any:
363	(a) school district;
364	(b) justice court;
365	(c) local district under Title 17B, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Local
366	Districts;

50/	(d) special service district under Title 1/D, Chapter 1, Special Service District Act;
368	(e) city or town; or
369	(f) entity created by an interlocal agreement under Title 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal
370	Cooperation Act.
371	(3) After the adoption of an optional plan, the county remains vested with all powers
372	and duties vested generally in counties by statute.
373	Section 8. Section 17-52a-505 is amended to read:
374	17-52a-505. Repeal of optional plan.
375	(1) [An] Except as provided in Section 17-52a-103, optional plan that the voters in an
376	election adopt under this chapter may be repealed as provided in this section.
377	(2) Registered voters of a county that has adopted an optional plan may initiate the
378	process of repealing an optional plan by filing a petition for the repeal of the optional plan.
379	(3) (a) Registered voters of a county may not file a petition to repeal an optional plan
380	sooner than four years or more than five years after the election of county officers under
381	Section 17-52a-503.
382	(b) (i) If the registered voters file a petition to repeal an optional plan under this
383	section, the petition is certified, and the optional plan is not repealed at an election described in
384	Subsection (8), the voters may not circulate or file a subsequent petition to repeal until at least
385	four, and not more than five, years after the certification of the original petition.
386	(ii) If, after four years, the voters file a subsequent petition under Subsection (3)(b)(i),
387	the voters:
388	(A) may not circulate or file another petition to repeal until at least four, and not more
389	than five, years after certification of the subsequent petition; and
390	(B) shall wait an additional four, and not more than five, years after the date of
391	certification of the previous petition for each petition filed thereafter.
392	(4) A petition described in Subsection (2) shall:
393	(a) be signed by registered voters residing in the county:
394	(i) equal in number to at least 15% of the total number of votes cast in each precinct
395	described in Subsection (4)(a)(ii) for all candidates for president of the United States at the
396	most recent election in which a president of the United States was elected; and
397	(ii) who represent at least 85% of the voting precincts located within the county;

- 398 (b) designate up to five of the petition signers as sponsors, designating one petition 399 signer as the contact sponsor, with the mailing address and telephone number of each; and 400 (c) be filed in the office of the clerk of the county in which the petition signers reside. 401 (5) Within 30 days after the filing of a petition under Subsection (2) or an amended 402 petition under Subsection (6), the county clerk shall: 403 (a) determine whether the required number of voters have signed the petition or 404 amended petition has been signed by the required number of registered voters; and 405 (b) (i) if a sufficient number of voters have signed the petition, certify the petition or 406 amended petition and deliver it to the county legislative body, and notify in writing the contact 407 sponsor of the certification; or 408 (ii) if a sufficient number of voters have not signed the petition, reject the petition or 409 the amended petition and notify the county legislative body and the contact sponsor in writing 410 of the rejection and the reasons for the rejection. (6) If a county clerk rejects a petition or an amended petition under Subsection 411 412 (5)(b)(ii), the petition may be amended or an amended petition may be further amended with 413 additional signatures and refiled within 20 days of the date of rejection. 414 (7) If a county clerk certifies a petition under Subsection (2), the county legislative 415 body shall hold an election on the proposal to repeal the optional plan at the next regular 416 general election that is at least 60 days after the day on which the county clerk certifies the 417 petition. 418 (8) If, at an election held under Subsection (7), a majority of voters voting on the 419 proposal to repeal the optional plan vote in favor of repealing: 420 (a) the optional plan is repealed, effective January 1 of the year following the election 421 of county officers under Subsection (8)(c);
- 425 (c) the county officers under the form of government to which the county reverts, who 426 are different than the county officers under the repealed optional plan, shall be elected at the

(b) upon the effective date of the repeal under Subsection (8)(a), the form of

government under which the county operates reverts to the form it had before the optional plan

- next regular general election following the election under Subsection (7).
- 428 Section 9. **Repealer.**

was adopted; and

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## 1st Sub. (Buff) H.B. 257

## 02-20-19 10:21 AM

429	This bill repeals:
430	Section 17-35b-301,"General county (modified)" structural form of county
431	government.
432	Section 17-35b-302, Urban county structural form of county government.
433	Section 17-35b-303, Community council form of county government.
434	Section 17-35b-304, Consolidated city and county Structural form.