

RESOLUTION TO AMEND JOINT RULES - REQUESTING

NEW LEGISLATION

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Andrew Stoddard

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This resolution amends joint legislative rules governing requests for legislation and prioritization of requests.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- changes the last day on which a legislator may file a Request for Legislation to noon of the first day of the general session;

- changes the date on which a legislator shall either approve a Request for Legislation for numbering or abandon the request to noon of the first day of the general session;

and

- changes the third priority bill request deadline to the Tuesday immediately preceding the first day of the annual general session.

Special Clauses:

None

Legislative Rules Affected:

AMENDS:

JR4-2-101

JR4-2-102



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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(ii) If the former legislator is unable to find another legislator to sponsor the legislation

within 30 days, the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall abandon each pending request for legislation from the legislator who is unavailable to serve.

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

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

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

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

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

(4) A legislator wishing to obtain funding for a project, program, or entity, when that funding request does not require that a statute be enacted, repealed, or amended, may not file a Request for Legislation but instead shall file a request for appropriation by following the procedures and requirements of [JR3-2-701](#).

(5) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall publicly provide, on the Legislature's website:

(a) a listing of each legislator's name and the number of bill files that are currently open in the name of that legislator for the current legislative session; and

(b) a listing, on the respective committee page, of the short title of each bill opened in the name of the committee, or adopted as a committee bill by the committee, during the interim, and for each bill listed:

(i) an indication as to whether the bill has been recommended by the committee or not; and

(ii) as applicable, the vote cast for the motion to recommend.

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

JR4-2-102. Drafting and prioritizing legislation.

(1) As used in this section, "interim committee" means a committee established under [JR7-1-201](#).

(2) (a) Requests for legislation shall be drafted on a first-in, first-out basis, except for legislation that is prioritized under the provisions of this section.

(b) When sufficient drafting information is available, the following requests for legislation shall be drafted before other requests for legislation, in the following order of priority:

(i) a committee bill file, as defined in [JR7-1-101](#); and

(ii) a request for legislation that is prioritized by a legislator under Subsection (3).

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

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

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

(iii) priority request number three must be requested on or before the ~~[first Thursday]~~ Tuesday immediately preceding the first day of the annual general session.

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

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

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

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

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

- 121 (4) A legislator may not:
- 122 (a) revoke a priority designation once it has been requested;
- 123 (b) transfer a priority designation to a different request for legislation; or
- 124 (c) transfer a priority designation to another legislator.
- 125 (5) Except as provided under [JR4-2-502](#) or as otherwise provided in these rules, the
- 126 Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall:
- 127 (a) reserve as many bill numbers as necessary to number the bills recommended by an
- 128 interim committee; and
- 129 (b) number all other legislation in the order in which the legislation is approved by the
- 130 sponsor for numbering.