

1                   **JOINT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING STUDY TO REDUCE**  
2                                   **FALL-RELATED INJURIES**

3                                   2017 GENERAL SESSION

4                                   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Chief Sponsor: Jani Iwamoto**

6                                   House Sponsor: Stewart E. Barlow

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8                   **LONG TITLE**

9                   **General Description:**

10                   This joint resolution of the Legislature encourages the Department of Health to convene  
11                   a multi-stakeholder workgroup to develop recommendations for reducing fall-related  
12                   injuries among Utahns.

13                   **Highlighted Provisions:**

14                   This resolution:

- 15                   ▶ sets forth the impacts of fall-related injuries among Utahns;
- 16                   ▶ encourages the Department of Health to convene a multi-stakeholder workgroup to  
17                   develop recommendations for reducing fall-related injuries among Utahns; and
- 18                   ▶ encourages the workgroup to consider certain issues.

19                   **Special Clauses:**

20                   None

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

23                   WHEREAS, in 2014, Utahns were hospitalized 5,300 times for the treatment of  
24                   fall-related injuries;

25                   WHEREAS, in 2014, more than \$186 million was spent on treating Utahns for  
26                   fall-related injuries;

27                   WHEREAS, from 2013 to 2015, 655 Utahns died as the result of fall-related injuries;

28                   WHEREAS, more than 76% of fall-related deaths and more than 61% of fall-related  
29                   hospitalizations are among individuals 65 years of age or older;

30 WHEREAS, the risk of death from fall-related injuries increases exponentially with  
31 age; and

32 WHEREAS, individuals 65 years of age or older are many times more likely to die  
33 from injuries related to falls than injuries related to traffic accidents, firearms, or other causes  
34 of unintentional injury:

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah  
36 encourages the Department of Health to convene a multi-stakeholder workgroup to develop  
37 recommendations for reducing fall-related injuries among Utahns.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the workgroup include the department's fall  
39 prevention specialist, an individual representing the elderly, an individual representing local  
40 health departments, an individual representing Utah physicians, an individual representing  
41 Utah emergency medical service providers, an individual representing Utah hospitals, an  
42 individual representing the Utah Health Information Network, an individual with expertise in  
43 the electronic exchange of clinical health information, and, as appropriate, others.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah encourages the  
45 workgroup to consider:

46 (a) how to promote the identification of individuals at risk of fall-related injuries and  
47 the delivery of risk-reduction interventions;

48 (b) how to promote the use of fall-risk assessments by primary care physicians and  
49 other medical practitioners who interact with persons at risk of fall-related injuries;

50 (c) whether a primary care physician should be notified for appropriate follow-up when  
51 a patient of the physician is treated in a hospital emergency department or other emergency or  
52 urgent care setting for a fall-related injury;

53 (d) how to increase the availability of funding for home modifications designed to  
54 reduce the risk of fall-related injuries; and

55 (e) how to sustain efforts to reduce fall-related injuries in the state if federal funding  
56 for the efforts is reduced or eliminated.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Department

58 of Health.