

HB0311S02 compared with HB0311S01

~~{Omitted text}~~ shows text that was in HB0311S01 but was omitted in HB0311S02
inserted text shows text that was not in HB0311S01 but was inserted into HB0311S02

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1

Elections Study
2026 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Jefferson S. Burton
Senate Sponsor: Michael K. McKell



2

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill directs the Gary R. Herbert Institute for Public Policy at Utah Valley University
6 and the Center for Constitutional Studies at Utah Valley University to conduct an elections
7 study.

8 **Highlighted Provisions:**

9 This bill:

10 ▶ directs the Gary R. Herbert Institute for Public Policy at Utah Valley University (the institute)
and the Center for Constitutional Studies at Utah Valley University (the center) to conduct an elections
study regarding:

- 13 • the security of in-person voting versus voting by mail; and
14 • best practices for conducting and implementing a process where identification must be
presented before depositing a ballot in a ballot drop box; and

16 ▶ directs the institute and the center to present the study to the Government Operations Interim
Committee.

18 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

HB0311S01 compared with HB0311S02

19 None

20 **Other Special Clauses:**

21 None

22 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

23 ENACTS:

24 **53H-4-708** , Utah Code Annotated 1953

25

26 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

27 Section 1. Section 1 is enacted to read:

28 **53H-4-708. Election study.**

29 (1) The institute and the center shall conduct a study to determine:

30 (a) the security risks of in-person voting versus voting by mail; and

31 (b) the best practices for conducting and implementing a process where identification is presented and checked at a ballot drop box before a voter may deposit a ballot in the ballot drop box.

34 (2) The portion of the study described in Subsection (1)(a) shall include:

35 (a) a comparison between Utah and states that don't use voting by mail as the primary means of voting;

37 (b) an analysis of potential and actual fraud in Utah, and in comparison to other states;

38 (c) an analysis of the accuracy or inaccuracy of voter rolls using a vote by mail system versus in-person voting; and

40 (d) an analysis of related issues raised in 2024-20, A Performance Audit of Utah's Election System: Strengthening Election Integrity.

42 (3) The portion of the study described in Subsection (1)(b) shall include information, analysis, and recommendations regarding:

44 (a) logistics;

45 (b) wait times;

46 (c) costs; and

47 (d) ballot processing.

48 (4) The institute and the center shall present the results of the study described in this section to the Government Operations Interim Committee at or before the October 2026 interim meeting.

51 Section 2. **Effective date.**

Effective Date.

HB0311S01 compared with HB0311S02

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.

3-5-26 4:45 PM