

House Rules Committee

2/12/2026

Bill: HJR 23 – Joint Rules Resolution - Policy Development and Impact

Sponsor: Representative Wilcox

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Track

This Joint Rules Resolution enacts provisions related to policy development and impact.

Discussion: This Resolution would establish or revise rules within the Utah Legislature relating to how policy development and impact are addressed in legislative processes. The sponsor explained that the Resolution is intended to make the legislative process more deliberate and accountable. The sponsor noted that many constituent concerns result in open Bill files without clear measures of success. This Resolution would establish relevant performance metrics for Bills to help legislative drafters understand the context and intended outcomes of proposed legislation. The sponsor referenced the Public Safety Data Portal and emphasized that when policy changes are made, quantitative data should be produced to evaluate whether those measures were effective. The Resolution would require metrics to be identified upfront.

Representative Teuscher commended the goal of data-driven decision-making but questioned whether every Bill has a measurable effect. He cited the sponsor's proposal to create a state holiday on election day and asked how quantitative results would be defined in that context. Representative K. Peterson raised concerns about performance metrics related to education outcomes and questioned whether legislative drafters or the Legislative Auditor General would be responsible for evaluating success after implementation.

The sponsor clarified that the accountability component would focus on measuring whether the goals of legislation are achieved over time. A senior policy analyst explained that drafting instructions, including performance metrics, would become part of the public record once a Bill is introduced. Representative Matthews questioned who would be responsible for collecting follow-up data. The sponsor responded that the Legislative Auditor General would be tasked with gathering and evaluating the data.

A member of the public spoke to concerns with the Resolution. Representative Teuscher moved to amend line 30 by adding a comma and the phrase "if applicable" after the word "and". Representative Wilcox spoke in support of the amendment, and the amendment was adopted by the Committee.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 1

N/V: 1

Outcome: HJR 23, as amended, passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
