

House Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee
2/10/2025

Bill: 1st Substitute HB 351 – Election Day Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Ryan D. Wilcox

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill establishes Election Day as a state holiday.

Discussion: If HB 351 were to become law, beginning January 1, 2026, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November would be designated as a state holiday known as Election Day. As a result, state employees would receive the day off, and private employers would be encouraged to consider doing the same. Representative Shallenberger inquired whether this would be a paid day off and who it would apply to. The sponsor clarified that private employers would have the discretion to decide whether to make it a paid holiday and that the Bill would not impose any requirements on private employers, only state employees. Representative Shallenberger also asked whether industries such as schools and banks would be closed on Election Day. The sponsor explained that it would be up to the leaders of those industries to determine whether to provide a day off. Representatives Shallenberger and Shelley expressed concerns regarding the potential economic impact of the proposed holiday. Members of the public voiced their support for the Bill. Representative Shallenberger argued that the current policy, which grants state employees two paid hours of leave to vote during the election cycle, is sufficient. However, the sponsor disagreed, believing that two hours is inadequate, particularly given the election laws currently under consideration by the Legislature.

Yeas: 4

Nays: 3

N/V: 3

Outcome: 1st Substitute HB 351 was held in Committee.

Bill: 1st Substitute HB 370 – State Holiday Modifications

Sponsor: Representative Sandra Hollins

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill modifies the day on which Juneteenth National Freedom Day is recognized in Utah. Discussion: HB 370 provides that June 19, which has been designated as Juneteenth National Freedom Day, be celebrated consistent with other legal holidays in Utah. Meaning that if June 19th falls on a Sunday, it will be celebrated the following Monday. If it falls on a Saturday, it will be on the previous Friday. A representative from Utah Land Title Association spoke in support of the Bill. The 1st substitute was adopted by the Committee. The substitute changes the effective date to January 1, 2026.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0
N/V: 3

Outcome: 1st Substitute HB 370 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.

UNASSD