

MODEL CONCEPTS FOR APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT

In order for our country and its governments (national, state, and local) to operate well and at their highest potential, it is imperative to maintain checks and balances, transparency, and accountability throughout the systems that exist. Proper principles help ensure that the process works well and stops power from centralizing in any one position, person, entity, or location.

Concept #2 **Public Comment Software Tool**

Background

When legislation is proposed, many individuals email, text, or call their representatives. Many of them have valid comments and concerns, but the other members of the public, and the other representatives, do not get to see the full scope of comments and feedback on the proposed legislation.

The process can be greatly improved by creating a “public comment” tool whereby citizens can provide public comment on the proposed legislation. This allows for support for and against certain items, provisions, or concepts to be seen and understood by all who participate, both the representatives and the citizens.

This concept is already utilized in the rulemaking process where the public can comment and see other comments. The same concept should be used in the legislative process.

Model Concepts

- A legislative body shall provide software tools that enable public comment, for all of the public to see and review, on each proposed piece of legislation.
 - Examples of this concept can be seen at:
<https://rules.utah.gov/help/participate-in-rulemaking/>
 - Utah already has software to do this, it just needs to integrate it or similar tools with the software used in the legislative process.
- In addition to this, a legislative body shall provide software tools for a citizen to opt in to electronic notifications that are sent immediately once a change to the proposed legislation occurs.
 - Utah does this fairly well at the State level, but cities and counties should incorporate it too.