

**PHILO T. FARNSWORTH CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

2011 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Dennis E. Stowell**

House Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor recognizes Utah native Philo T. Farnsworth as the inventor of television.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

► recognizes Philo T. Farnsworth for his pioneering work in the invention of the television and for his many other inventions that have impacted the lives of millions of people around the world.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

WHEREAS, few inventors have impacted the world as much as has Utah native Philo T. Farnsworth;

WHEREAS, Philo T. Farnsworth has deep roots in Beaver, Utah, where he was born August 19, 1906, in a log cabin and where his father had served as mayor in the 1880s;

WHEREAS, when he was 12, Philo T. Farnsworth's family moved to a farm in Rigby, Idaho, where he was fascinated by the electricity that powered his new home;

WHEREAS, Farnsworth was intrigued by mechanical and electrical technology and managed to convert his mother's hand-powered washing machine to an electric-powered



28 appliance;

29 WHEREAS, as a youth living in Beaver, Utah, Farnsworth won a national contest for a  
30 theft-proof car lock;

31 WHEREAS, at the age of 14, Philo T. Farnsworth startled one of his high school  
32 teachers by sharing with him a diagram of an Electronic Image Dissector, a key component in  
33 his eventual invention of television;

34 WHEREAS, at age 16, Farnsworth's father died of pneumonia and Farnsworth had to  
35 care for his mother and four siblings;

36 WHEREAS, after spending a few years in the United States Navy, Farnsworth was  
37 honorably discharged and once again pursued his interest in electronics;

38 WHEREAS, Farnsworth found investors who were not only willing to help him pursue  
39 his work in electronics but also provided a laboratory in Los Angeles where Farnsworth was  
40 able to conduct important experiments;

41 WHEREAS, before relocating to California, Farnsworth married Elma "Pem" Gardner,  
42 the sister of a close friend of his;

43 WHEREAS, within a few months after arriving in California, Farnsworth's success led  
44 him to apply for several patents for his designs and models;

45 WHEREAS, on September 7, 1927, at a laboratory in San Francisco, Farnsworth's  
46 image dissector camera tube transmitted its first image, a straight line;

47 WHEREAS, in 1928, Farnsworth gave the first demonstration of his television system  
48 to the press, and after several improvements, gave his first demonstration to the public in 1934;

49 WHEREAS, Farnsworth formed his own company, prevailed in key patent lawsuits  
50 against competitors, and developed other important inventions, including a process for  
51 sterilizing milk using radio waves and a fog-penetrating beam for ships and airplanes;

52 WHEREAS, in 1938, Farnsworth established the Farnsworth Television and Radio  
53 Corporation, which was in turn purchased by International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) in  
54 1951;

55 WHEREAS, while in the employ of ITT, Farnsworth developed many more inventions,  
56 including a defense early warning signal, submarine detection devices, radar calibration  
57 equipment, an infrared telescope, and a PPI Projector, which allowed safe control of air traffic  
58 from the ground and was a forerunner of today's air traffic control system;

59 WHEREAS, later in life, the Farnsworths relocated to Utah, where Philo passed away  
60 in 1971;

61 WHEREAS, for many years after his death, Elma Farnsworth worked hard to help her  
62 deceased husband retain his rightful place in history;

63 WHEREAS, crediting his wife's contribution to his life's work, Farnsworth once stated,  
64 "My wife and I started this TV";

65 WHEREAS, in 1999, Time Magazine included Farnsworth in the "Time 100: The Most  
66 Important People of the Century"; and

67 WHEREAS, a statue of Philo T. Farnsworth is one of two statues representing the state  
68 of Utah in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol, a second statue of  
69 Farnsworth stands in the Utah State Capitol, and a third statue stands in his hometown of  
70 Beaver:

71 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
72 Governor concurring therein, recognize the life and contributions of Philo T. Farnsworth, Utah  
73 native, the inventor of television and of many other inventions that have benefitted millions of  
74 people around the world.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of  
76 the United States, the members of Utah's congressional delegation, the Farnsworth family,  
77 Beaver County, and Beaver City.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 2-2-11 11:27 AM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

# FISCAL NOTE

S.C.R. 9

SHORT TITLE: **Philo T. Farnsworth Concurrent Resolution**

SPONSOR: **Stowell, D.**

2011 GENERAL SESSION, STATE OF UTAH

## STATE GOVERNMENT (UCA 36-12-13(2)(b))

Enactment of this resolution likely will not materially impact the state budget.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCA 36-12-13(2)(c))

Enactment of this resolution likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for local governments.

## DIRECT EXPENDITURES BY UTAH RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES (UCA 36-12-13(2)(d))

Enactment of this resolution likely will not result in direct, measurable expenditures by Utah residents or businesses.