

1 **REPEAL OF LIBEL AND SLANDER**

2 **PROVISIONS**

3 2007 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Chief Sponsor: Scott D. McCoy**

6 House Sponsor: Scott L Wyatt

7

8 **LONG TITLE**

9 **General Description:**

10 This bill modifies the Criminal Code to repeal the unconstitutional criminal libel
11 provision and to repeal related sections. This bill also repeals criminal slander statutes.

12 **Highlighted Provisions:**

13 This bill:

- 14 ▶ repeals the criminal libel statute, which was found unconstitutional by the Utah
15 Supreme Court;
- 16 ▶ repeals the definition and presumptions relating to the criminal libel offense; and
- 17 ▶ repeals the Criminal Code offense of slander regarding female chastity.

18 **Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

19 None

20 **Other Special Clauses:**

21 None

22 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

23 **REPEALS:**

24 **76-9-501**, as enacted by Chapter 196, Laws of Utah 1973

25 **76-9-502**, as last amended by Chapter 241, Laws of Utah 1991

26 **76-9-507**, as last amended by Chapter 241, Laws of Utah 1991

27 **76-9-508**, as last amended by Chapter 20, Laws of Utah 1995

28

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

30 Section 1. **Repealer.**
31 This bill repeals:
32 Section **76-9-501, "Libel" defined.**
33 Section **76-9-502, Libel -- Elements -- Classification of offense.**
34 Section **76-9-507, Slander -- Imputing unchastity to female.**
35 Section **76-9-508, Slander -- Imputation need not be proven false -- Truth as**
36 **defense.**