

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.**

Legislative Review Note
as of 11-16-06 8:42 AM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

S.B. 86 - Repeal of Libel and Slander Provisions

Fiscal Note

2007 General Session

State of Utah

State Impact

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

Individual, Business and/or Local Impact

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

1/15/2007, 9:11:08 AM, Lead Analyst: Byrne, D.

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst