

**UNIFORM STATE LAW - UNIFORM UNSWORN  
FOREIGN DECLARATIONS ACT**

2009 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Lyle W. Hillyard**

House Sponsor: Kay L. McIff

---

---

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill enacts a uniform state law on unsworn foreign declarations.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ provides definitions;
- ▶ allows unsworn declarations to be entered into by people who are outside the boundaries of the United States;
- ▶ provides the form unsworn declarations are to take;
- ▶ excludes unsworn declarations under certain circumstances; and
- ▶ defines the relationship between unsworn declarations and the federal Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act.

**Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**78B-18-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**78B-18-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



- 28           **78B-18-103**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 29           **78B-18-104**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 30           **78B-18-105**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 31           **78B-18-106**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 32           **78B-18-107**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
- 33           **78B-18-108**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

36           Section 1. Section **78B-18-101** is enacted to read:

37           **CHAPTER 18. UTAH UNIFORM UNSWORN FOREIGN DECLARATIONS ACT**

38           **78B-18-101. Title.**

39           This chapter is known as the "Utah Uniform Unsworn Foreign Declarations Act."

40           Section 2. Section **78B-18-102** is enacted to read:

41           **78B-18-102. Definitions.**

42           As used in this chapter:

43           (1) "Boundaries of the United States" means the geographic boundaries of the United  
44 States, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and any territory or insular possession  
45 subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

46           (2) "Law" includes the federal or a state constitution, a federal or state statute, a  
47 judicial decision or order, a rule of court, an executive order, and an administrative rule,  
48 regulation, or order.

49           (3) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored  
50 in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

51           (4) "Sign" means, with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record:

52           (a) to execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or

53           (b) to attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol, sound, or  
54 process.

55           (5) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico,  
56 the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction  
57 of the United States.

58           (6) "Sworn declaration" means a declaration in a signed record given under oath. The

59 term includes a sworn statement, verification, certificate, and affidavit.

60 (7) "Unsworn declaration" means a declaration in a signed record that is not given  
61 under oath, but is given under penalty of perjury.

62 Section 3. Section **78B-18-103** is enacted to read:

63 **78B-18-103. Applicability.**

64 (1) This chapter applies to an unsworn declaration by a declarant who at the time of  
65 making the declaration is physically located outside the boundaries of the United States  
66 whether or not the location is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

67 (2) This chapter does not apply to a declaration by a declarant who is physically located  
68 on property that is within the boundaries of the United States and subject to the jurisdiction of  
69 another country or a federally recognized Indian tribe.

70 Section 4. Section **78B-18-104** is enacted to read:

71 **78B-18-104. Validity of unsworn declaration.**

72 (1) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (2), if a law of this state requires or  
73 permits use of a sworn declaration, an unsworn declaration meeting the requirements of this  
74 chapter has the same effect as a sworn declaration.

75 (2) This chapter does not apply to:

76 (a) depositions;

77 (b) oaths of office;

78 (c) oaths required to be given before a specified official other than a notary public;

79 (d) declarations to be recorded pursuant to Title 57, Real Estate; or

80 (e) oaths required by Section 75-2-504.

81 Section 5. Section **78B-18-105** is enacted to read:

82 **78B-18-105. Required Medium.**

83 If a law of this state requires that a sworn declaration be presented in a particular  
84 medium, an unsworn declaration must be presented in that medium.

85 Section 6. Section **78B-18-106** is enacted to read:

86 **78B-18-106. Form of unsworn declaration.**

87 An unsworn declaration under this chapter must be in substantially the following form:

88 I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of Utah that the foregoing is true and  
89 correct, and that I am physically located outside the geographic boundaries of the United States.

90 Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and any territory or insular possession subject to  
91 the jurisdiction of the United States.

92 Executed on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_.  
93 (date) (month) (year) (city or other location, and state) (country)

94 \_\_\_\_\_  
95 (printed name)

96 \_\_\_\_\_  
97 (signature)

98 Section 7. Section **78B-18-107** is enacted to read:

99 **78B-18-107. Uniformity of application and construction.**

100 In applying and construing this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to  
101 promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

102 Section 8. Section **78B-18-108** is enacted to read:

103 **78B-18-108. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce**  
104 **Act.**

105 This chapter modifies, limits, and supersedes the federal Electronic Signatures in  
106 Global and National Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 7001, et seq., but does not modify,  
107 limit, or supersede Section 101(c) of that act, 15 U.S.C. Section 7001(c), or authorize  
108 electronic delivery of any of the notices described in Section 103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C.  
109 Section 7003(b).

---

---

**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 1-15-09 4:25 PM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

---

---

**S.B. 122 - Uniform State Law - Uniform Unsworn Foreign Declarations Act**

**Fiscal Note**

2009 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.

---