1

## **Sexual Crime Amendments**

## 2025 GENERAL SESSION

## STATE OF UTAH

# Chief Sponsor: Mark A. Strong

LONG TITLE
General Description:
This bill addresses the sentence length for the crimes of rape, object rape, and forcible
sodomy.
Highlighted Provisions:
This bill:
<ul> <li>defines terms;</li> </ul>
• amends the length of a sentence for the crimes of rape, object rape, and forcible sodomy if
the actor committed the crime against an incapacitated adult; and
<ul> <li>makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul>
Money Appropriated in this Bill:
None
Other Special Clauses:
None
Utah Code Sections Affected:
AMENDS:
76-5-402, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 181
76-5-402.2, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 181
76-5-403, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 181
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
Section 1. Section <b>76-5-402</b> is amended to read:
76-5-402 . Rape.
(1)(a) As used in this section, "incapacitated adult" means:
(i) an individual 14 years old or older with:
(A) an intellectual disease or defect;
(B) a physical disease or defect;
(C) a neurological disease or defect; or
(D) a cognitive disease or defect; and

**H.B. 127** 

32	(ii) as a result of the disease or defect described in Subsection (1)(a)(i), the individual
33	is unable to meet two or more of the following requirements:
34	(A) appraise the nature of an act of sexual intercourse;
35	(B) resist or escape an act of sexual intercourse; or
36	(C) report an act of sexual intercourse committed against the individual.
37	(b) Terms defined in Section 76-1-101.5 apply to this section.
38	(2)(a) An actor commits rape if the actor has sexual intercourse with another individual
39	without the individual's consent.
40	(b) Any sexual penetration, however slight, is sufficient to constitute the relevant
41	element of a violation of Subsection (2)(a).
42	(c) This section applies whether or not the actor is married to the individual.
43	(3) A violation of Subsection (2) is a felony of the first degree, punishable by a term of
44	imprisonment of:
45	(a) except as provided in Subsection (3)(b) or (c), not less than five years and which may
46	be for life;
47	(b) except as provided in Subsection (3)(c) or (4), 15 years and which may be for life, if
48	the trier of fact finds that:
49	(i) during the course of the commission of the rape the defendant caused serious
50	bodily injury to the victim;[-or]
51	(ii) at the time of the commission of the rape, the defendant was younger than 18
52	years old and was previously convicted of a grievous sexual offense; or
53	(iii) the act committed by the actor described in Subsection (2) was committed
54	against an incapacitated adult; or
55	(c) life without parole, if the trier of fact finds that at the time of the commission of the
56	rape the defendant was previously convicted of a grievous sexual offense.
57	(4) If, when imposing a sentence under Subsection (3)(b), a court finds that a lesser term
58	than the term described in Subsection (3)(b) is in the interests of justice and states the
59	reasons for this finding on the record, the court may impose a term of imprisonment of
60	not less than:
61	(a) 10 years and which may be for life; or
62	(b) six years and which may be for life.
63	(5) The provisions of Subsection (4) do not apply when a defendant is sentenced under
64	Subsection (3)(a) or (c).
65	(6) Imprisonment under Subsection (3)(b), (3)(c), or (4) is mandatory in accordance with

- 2 -

66	Section 76-3-406.
67	Section 2. Section <b>76-5-402.2</b> is amended to read:
68	76-5-402.2 . Object rape.
69	(1)(a) As used in this section, "incapacitated adult" means the same as that term is
70	defined in Section 76-5-402.
71	(b) Terms defined in Section 76-1-101.5 apply to this section.
72	(2) An actor commits object rape if:
73	(a) the actor:
74	(i) acts without an individual's consent;
75	(ii) causes the penetration, however slight, of the genital or anal opening of the
76	individual by:
77	(A) a foreign object;
78	(B) a substance;
79	(C) an instrument;
80	(D) a device; or
81	(E) a part of the human body other than the mouth or genitals; and
82	(iii)(A) intends to cause substantial emotional or bodily pain to the individual; or
83	(B) intends to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any individual; and
84	(b) the individual described in Subsection (2)(a)(i) is 14 years old or older.
85	(3) A violation of Subsection (2) is a first degree felony, punishable by a term of
86	imprisonment of:
87	(a) except as provided in Subsection (3)(b) or (c), not less than five years and which may
88	be for life;
89	(b) except as provided in Subsection (3)(c) or (4), 15 years and which may be for life, if
90	the trier of fact finds that:
91	(i) during the course of the commission of the object rape the defendant caused
92	serious bodily injury to the victim;[-or]
93	(ii) at the time of the commission of the object rape, the defendant was younger than
94	18 years old and was previously convicted of a grievous sexual offense; or
95	(iii) the act committed by the actor described in Subsection (2) was committed
96	against an incapacitated adult; or
97	(c) life without parole, if the trier of fact finds that at the time of the commission of the
98	object rape, the defendant was previously convicted of a grievous sexual offense.
99	(4) If, when imposing a sentence under Subsection (3)(b), a court finds that a lesser term

#### H.B. 127

100	than the term described in Subsection (3)(b) is in the interests of justice and states the
101	reasons for this finding on the record, the court may impose a term of imprisonment of
102	not less than:
103	(a) 10 years and which may be for life; or
104	(b) six years and which may be for life.
105	(5) The provisions of Subsection (4) do not apply if a defendant is sentenced under
106	Subsection (3)(a) or (c).
107	(6) Imprisonment under Subsection (3)(b), (3)(c), or (4) is mandatory in accordance with
108	Section 76-3-406.
109	Section 3. Section <b>76-5-403</b> is amended to read:
110	76-5-403 . Forcible sodomy.
111	(1)(a) As used in this section[ $;$ ]:
112	(i) "Incapacitated adult" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-5-402.
113	(ii) [
114	is 14 years old or older involving the genitals of one individual and the mouth or
115	anus of another individual.
116	(b) Terms defined in Section 76-1-101.5 apply to this section.
117	(2)(a) An actor commits forcible sodomy when the actor commits sodomy upon another
118	individual without the other individual's consent.
119	(b) Any touching, however slight, is sufficient to constitute the relevant element of a
120	violation of Subsection (2)(a).
121	(3) A violation of Subsection (2) is a first degree felony, punishable by a term of
122	imprisonment of:
123	(a) except as provided in Subsection (3)(b) or (c), not less than five years and which may
124	be for life;
125	(b) except as provided in Subsection (3)(c) or (4), 15 years and which may be for life, if
126	the trier of fact finds that:
127	(i) during the course of the commission of the forcible sodomy the defendant caused
128	serious bodily injury to the victim;[- <del>or</del> ]
129	(ii) at the time of the commission of the rape, the defendant was younger than 18
130	years old and was previously convicted of a grievous sexual offense; or
131	(iii) the act committed by the actor described in Subsection (2) was committed
132	against an incapacitated adult; or
133	(c) life without parole, if the trier of fact finds that at the time of the commission of the

134	forcible sodomy the defendant was previously convicted of a grievous sexual offense.
135	(4) If, when imposing a sentence under Subsection (3)(b), a court finds that a lesser term
136	than the term described in Subsection (3)(b) is in the interests of justice and states the
137	reasons for this finding on the record, the court may impose a term of imprisonment of
138	not less than:
139	(a) 10 years and which may be for life; or
140	(b) six years and which may be for life.
141	(5) The provisions of Subsection (4) do not apply when a defendant is sentenced under
142	Subsection (3)(a) or (c).
143	(6) Imprisonment under Subsection (3)(b), (3)(c), or (4) is mandatory in accordance with
144	Section 76-3-406.
145	Section 4. Effective date.

146 <u>This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.</u>