

SB0316 compared with SB0316S01

modifies an exception under current law that prohibits the recovery of attorney fees and court costs described in the preceding paragraph if the charges are quashed or dismissed upon application or motion of the prosecuting attorney, by limiting the exception to circumstances where the quashing or dismissal occurs more than 45 days after the day on which the charges are bound over for trial as a result of a preliminary hearing;

20 ▶ makes the modification described in the preceding paragraph only in relation to charges brought by filing an information; and

22 ▶ makes technical changes.

27 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

28 None

29 **Other Special Clauses:**

30 None

31 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

32 AMENDS:

33 **52-6-201** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 444

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

36 Section 1. Section **52-6-201** is amended to read:

37 **52-6-201. Indictment or information against officer or employee -- Reimbursement of attorney fees and court costs incurred in defense.**

35 ~~[(1) Except as provided in Subsection (3), and subject to Subsection (2), if a state grand jury indicts, or if an information is filed against, an officer or employee, in connection with or arising out of any act or omission of that officer or employee during the performance of the officer or employee's duties, within the scope of the officer or employee's employment, or under color of the officer or employee's authority, and that indictment or information is quashed or dismissed or results in a judgment of acquittal, unless the indictment or information is quashed or dismissed upon application or motion of the prosecuting attorney, that officer or employee is entitled to recover reasonable attorney fees and court costs necessarily incurred in the defense of that indictment or information from the public entity, unless the officer or employee is found guilty of substantially the same misconduct that formed the basis for the indictment or information.]~~

47

SB0316 compared with SB0316S01

~~[(2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), if the officer or employee is acquitted of some of the charges or counts, or portions of the indictment or information are quashed or dismissed, that officer or employee is entitled to recover from the public entity reasonable attorney fees and court costs necessarily incurred in the defense of those charges, counts, or portions of the indictment or information that were quashed, dismissed, or resulted in a judgment of acquittal, unless the alleged misconduct covered by those charges, counts, or portions of the indictment or information that were quashed, dismissed, or resulted in a judgment of acquittal is substantially the same alleged misconduct that formed the basis for charges, counts, or portions of the indictment or information of which the officer or employee was found guilty.]~~

57 Except as provided in Subsection (2), an officer or employee who is indicted, or against whom an
information is filed, for violation of a state law is entitled to recover from the public {entity}
entities described in {Subsection (3)} Subsections (3) and (4) reasonable attorney fees and court
costs necessarily incurred in defense of a charge in the indictment or information, if:
61 the charge is brought in connection with, or arising out of, an alleged act or omission of the officer or
employee:
63 during the performance of the officer's or employee's duties;
64 within the scope of the officer's or employee's employment; or
65 under color of the officer's or employee's authority; and
66 the charge, or the entire indictment or information, is quashed, dismissed, or results in a judgment of
acquittal.
68 An officer or employee is not entitled to recover attorney fees or court costs under Subsection (1):
70 if the officer or employee is found guilty of another violation of law for substantially the same act or
omission that formed the basis for the charge described in Subsection (1);
73 in relation to a charge in an indictment, if the charge, or the entire indictment, is quashed or dismissed
upon application or motion of the prosecuting attorney; or
75 in relation to a charge in an information, if the charge, or the entire information, is, no later than 45
days after the day on which the charge is bound over for trial as a result of a preliminary hearing,
quashed or dismissed upon application or motion of the prosecuting attorney.
84 except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), the public entity for which the officer or employee, in relation
to the alleged violation:
86 was engaged in performing a duty described in Subsection (1)(a)(i);

SB0316 compared with SB0316S01

87 acted, or failed to act, within the scope of the officer's or employee's employment; or
89 acted, or failed to act, under color of the officer's or employee's authority; or
90 the state, if:
91 the public entity described in Subsection (3)(a) is a political subdivision of the state;
93

[~~(a)~~] after the local attorney declines to pursue an indictment, or file an information, against the officer or employee, the attorney general obtains an indictment, or files an information, against the officer or employee;

96 [~~(b)~~] (iii) the alleged misconduct forming the basis of the indictment or information against the officer or employee is substantially similar to the facts or investigation results upon which the local attorney relied in deciding not to pursue an indictment, or file an information, against the officer or employee; and

100 [~~(c)~~] (iv) the attorney general pursued the indictment, or filed the information, against the officer or employee, for a reason other than that:

102 [~~(i)~~] (A) the local attorney requested the attorney general's involvement in the prosecution of the officer or employee due to a conflict of interest; or

104 [~~(ii)~~] (B) the local attorney lacked the resources or subject matter expertise to initiate or proceed with the prosecution of the officer or employee.

110 (4) The municipal prosecutor's office, the county attorney's office, the district attorney's office, or the attorney general's office that pursues the charges for which an officer or employee is entitled to recover reasonable attorney fees and court costs under Subsection (1) shall pay 50% of the attorney fees and court costs.

106 [~~(4)~~] (5) An officer or employee who [recovers]is entitled to recover reasonable attorney fees and court costs under [this section shall also be]Subsection (1) from a public entity described in Subsection (3) or (4) is also entitled to recover from that public entity reasonable attorney fees and costs necessarily incurred by the officer or employee in recovering the attorney fees and court costs [allowed under this section]to which the officer or employee is entitled under Subsection (1), including attorney fees and court costs incurred on appeal.

112 [~~(5)~~] ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, an officer or employee may not recover for the costs incurred in defense of any charge, count, or portion of the indictment or information that is quashed or dismissed upon application or motion of the prosecuting attorney.]~~

SB0316 compared with SB0316S01

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Section 2. **Effective date.**

Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.

3-5-26 5:14 PM