

Emergency Reporting Abuse Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Logan J. Monson

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill amends the offense of emergency reporting abuse.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- adds new penalties to the criminal offense of emergency reporting abuse; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:**AMENDS:**

76-9-105.5, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 173

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

Section 1. Section **76-9-105.5** is amended to read:

76-9-105.5 . Emergency reporting abuse.

(1)(a) As used in this section:

(i) "Emergency" means a situation in which property or human life is in jeopardy and the prompt summoning of aid is essential to the preservation of human life or property.

(ii) "Party line" means a subscriber's line or telephone circuit:

(A) that consists of two or more connected main telephone stations; and

(B) where each telephone station has a distinctive ring or telephone number.

(iii) "Weapon of mass destruction" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-15-301.

(b) Terms defined in Sections 76-1-101.5 apply to this section.

- (2) An actor commits emergency reporting abuse if the actor:
- (a) reports an emergency or causes an emergency to be reported, through any means, to a public, private, or volunteer entity whose purpose is to respond to fire, police, or medical emergencies, when the actor knows the reported emergency does not exist;
 - (b) makes a false report, or intentionally aids, abets, or causes another person to make a false report, through any means to an emergency response service, including a law enforcement dispatcher or a 911 emergency response service, if the false report claims that:
 - (i) an emergency exists or will exist;
 - (ii) the emergency described in Subsection (2)(b)(i) involves an imminent or future threat of serious bodily injury, serious physical injury, or death; and
 - (iii) the emergency described in Subsection (2)(b)(i) is occurring, or will occur, at a specified location; or
 - (c) makes a false report after having previously made a false report, or intentionally aides, abets, or causes a third party to make a false report, to an emergency response service, including a law enforcement dispatcher or a 911 emergency response service, alleging a violation of Section 63G-31-302 regarding a sex-designated changing room.
- (3)(a)(i) Except as provided in Subsection ~~[(3)(b)]~~ (3)(a)(ii), (d), or (e), a violation of Subsection (2)(a) is a class B misdemeanor.
- ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) A violation of Subsection (2)(a) is a second degree felony if the report is regarding a weapon of mass destruction.
- ~~[(e)]~~ (b) A violation of Subsection (2)(b) is a second degree felony.
- ~~[(d)]~~ (c) ~~[A-]~~ Except as provided in Subsection (3)(d) or (e), a violation of Subsection (2)(c) is a class B misdemeanor.
- (d) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(a)(ii) or (e), a violation of Subsection (2)(a) or (c) is a third degree felony if the violation:
- (i) is the actor's third or subsequent conviction or adjudication under this section; or
 - (ii) causes an emergency response, or a delay of an emergency response to another request for emergency services, that results in:
 - (A) bodily injury or substantial bodily injury to an individual; or
 - (B) pecuniary loss equal to, or in excess, of \$5,000 in value.
- (e) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(a)(ii), a violation of Subsection (2)(a) or (c) is a second degree felony if the violation causes an emergency response, or a delay of an

65 emergency response to another request for emergency services, that results in:

66 (i) serious bodily injury to an individual; or

67 (ii) death to an individual.

68 (4)(a) In addition to another penalty authorized by law, a court shall order an actor
69 convicted of a violation of this section to:

70 (i) [to]reimburse a federal, state, or local unit of government, or a private business,
71 organization, individual, or entity for all expenses and losses incurred in
72 responding to the violation[-] ; and

73 (ii)(A) serve a minimum of four days in jail; or

74 (B) perform a minimum of 40 hours of community service.

75 (b) The court may order that the actor pay less than the full amount of the costs
76 described in Subsection [(4)(a)] (4)(a)(i) only if the court states on the record the
77 reasons why the reimbursement would be inappropriate.

78 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

79 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.