

Logan J. Monson proposes the following substitute bill:

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

(i) serious bodily injury to an individual; or

(ii) death to an individual.

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2. **Effective Date.**

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.