

Emergency Reporting Offense Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore

House Sponsor: Stephanie Gricius

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies the offense of emergency reporting abuse.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ modifies the offense of emergency reporting abuse to include conduct in which an actor contacts an emergency response service when the actor knows, or reasonably should know, that no actual or perceived emergency exists; 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

31 76-15-301.

32 (b) Terms defined in [Seetions] Section 76-1-101.5 apply to this section.

33 (2) An actor commits emergency reporting abuse if the actor:

34 (a) reports an emergency or causes an emergency to be reported, through any means, to a
35 public, private, or volunteer entity whose purpose is to respond to fire, police, or
36 medical emergencies, when the actor knows the reported emergency does not exist;

37 (b) makes a false report, or intentionally aids, abets, or causes another person to make a
38 false report, through any means, to an emergency response service, including a law
39 enforcement dispatcher or a 911 emergency response service, if the false report
40 claims that:

41 (i) an emergency exists or will exist;

42 (ii) the emergency described in Subsection (2)(b)(i) involves an imminent or future
43 threat of serious bodily injury, serious physical injury, or death; and

44 (iii) the emergency described in Subsection (2)(b)(i) is occurring, or will occur, at a
45 specified location; [or]

46 (c) makes a false report after having previously made a false report, or intentionally
47 aides, abets, or causes a third party to make a false report, to an emergency response
48 service, including a law enforcement dispatcher or a 911 emergency response service,
49 alleging a violation of Section 63G-31-302 regarding a sex-designated changing room[.] ;
50 or

51 (d) under circumstances not amounting to an offense described in Subsection (2)(a), (b),
52 or (c), contacts, through any means, an emergency response service, including a law
53 enforcement dispatcher or a 911 emergency response service, when the actor knows,
54 or reasonably should know, that no actual or perceived emergency exists, which may
55 include:

56 (i) reporting a situation that the actor knows, or reasonably should know, is not an
57 emergency situation; or

58 (ii) requesting assistance or services that the actor knows, or reasonably should know,
59 are not necessary for, or in response to, an emergency.

60 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), a violation of Subsection (2)(a) is a class
61 B misdemeanor.

62 (b) A violation of Subsection (2)(a) is a second degree felony if the report is regarding a
63 weapon of mass destruction.

64 (c) A violation of Subsection (2)(b) is a second degree felony.

65 (d) A violation of Subsection (2)(c) or (2)(d) is a class B misdemeanor.

66 (4)(a) In addition to another penalty authorized by law, a court shall order an actor
67 convicted of a violation of this section to reimburse a federal, state, or local unit of
68 government, or a private business, organization, individual, or entity for all expenses
69 and losses incurred in responding to the violation.

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

73 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

74 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.