

Lincoln Fillmore proposes the following substitute bill:

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 a 911 emergency response service when the actor knows, or reasonably should know, that no actual or perceived emergency, crime, or other circumstance jeopardizing public safety exists;
- moves a definition to the statute in which the definition is referenced; 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

76-9-105.6, as enacted 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)]~~ (ii) "Weapon of mass destruction" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-15-301.

(b) Terms defined in ~~[Sections]~~ Section 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~~[-]~~ ;
or

(d)(i) under circumstances not amounting to an offense described in Subsection (2)(a) or (b), contacts, through any means, a 911 emergency response service, when the actor knows, or reasonably should know, that no actual or perceived emergency, crime, or other circumstance jeopardizing public safety exists; and

(ii) has previously been informed by a 911 response service dispatcher, a law enforcement officer, or a prosecuting attorney that the circumstance the actor is reporting to a 911 emergency response service, or a substantially similar circumstance, is not a circumstance that is appropriate for being reported to a 911 emergency response service.

(3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), a violation of Subsection (2)(a) is a class

64 B misdemeanor.

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

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

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

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

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

76 Section 2. Section **76-9-105.6** is amended to read:

77 **76-9-105.6 . Prohibited use of a party line or public pay telephone in an**
78 **emergency.**

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

80 (i) "Emergency" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-9-105.5.

81 (ii) "Party line" means ~~[the same as that term is defined in Section 76-9-105.5.]~~ a
82 subscriber's line or telephone circuit:

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

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

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

86 (2) An actor commits prohibited use of a party line or public pay telephone in an
87 emergency if the actor:

88 (a) intentionally refuses to yield or surrender the use of a party line or a public pay
89 telephone to another individual upon being informed that the party line or public pay
90 telephone is needed to report a fire or summon police, medical, or other aid in case of
91 an emergency; or

92 (b) asks for or requests the use of a party line or a public pay telephone on the pretext
93 that an emergency exists, knowing that no emergency exists.

94 (3) A violation of Subsection (2) is a class C misdemeanor.

95 (4) Subsection (2)(a) does not apply if the actor refuses to yield or surrender the use of the
96 party line or public pay telephone because the actor is using the party line or public pay
97 telephone to report an emergency.

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

(b) The court may order that the actor pay less than the full amount of the costs described in Subsection (5)(a) only if the court states on the record the reasons why the full reimbursement would be inappropriate.

Section 3. **Effective Date.**

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.