

**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.

30 [~~(iii) "Party line" means a subscriber's line or telephone circuit:~~]  
31 [~~(A) that consists of two or more connected main telephone stations; and~~]  
32 [~~(B) where each telephone station has a distinctive ring or telephone number.~~]  
33 [~~(iii)~~] (ii) "Weapon of mass destruction" means the same as that term is defined in  
34 Section 76-15-301.

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

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

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

40 (b) makes a false report, or intentionally aids, abets, or causes another person to make a  
41 false report, through any means, to an emergency response service, including a law  
42 enforcement dispatcher or a 911 emergency response service, if the false report  
43 claims that:  
44 (i) an emergency exists or will exist;  
45 (ii) the emergency described in Subsection (2)(b)(i) involves an imminent or future  
46 threat of serious bodily injury, serious physical injury, or death; and  
47 (iii) the emergency described in Subsection (2)(b)(i) is occurring, or will occur, at a  
48 specified location; ~~[or]~~  
49 (c) makes a false report after having previously made a false report, or intentionally  
50 aides, abets, or causes a third party to make a false report, to an emergency response  
51 service, including a law enforcement dispatcher or a 911 emergency response service,  
52 alleging a violation of Section 63G-31-302 regarding a sex-designated changing room~~[.]~~ ;  
53 or  
54 (d)(i) under circumstances not amounting to an offense described in Subsection (2)(a)  
55 or (b), contacts, through any means, a 911 emergency response service, when the  
56 actor knows, or reasonably should know, that no actual or perceived emergency,  
57 crime, or other circumstance jeopardizing public safety exists; and  
58 (ii) has previously been informed by a 911 response service dispatcher, a law  
59 enforcement officer, or a prosecuting attorney that the circumstance the actor is  
60 reporting to a 911 emergency response service, or a substantially similar  
61 circumstance, is not a circumstance that is appropriate for being reported to a 911  
62 emergency response service.  
63 (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.

98       (5)(a) In addition to another penalty authorized by law, a court shall order an actor  
99       convicted of a violation of this section to reimburse a federal, state, or local unit of  
100      government, or a private business, organization, individual, or entity for all expenses  
101      and losses incurred in responding to the violation.  
102       (b) The court may order that the actor pay less than the full amount of the costs  
103       described in Subsection (5)(a) only if the court states on the record the reasons why  
104       the full reimbursement would be inappropriate.

105      **Section 3. Effective Date.**

106      This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.