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Summons Amendments
 2026 GENERAL SESSION
 STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Stephanie Pitcher
 House Sponsor:

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LONG TITLE

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General Description:

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This bill addresses the issuance of a summons.

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Highlighted Provisions:

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This bill:

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▸ addresses the issuance of a warrant of arrest in lieu of a summons; and

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▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

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Money Appropriated in this Bill:

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None

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Other Special Clauses:

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None

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Utah Code Sections Affected:

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AMENDS:

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77-7-5, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 314

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

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Section 1. Section **77-7-5** is amended to read:

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77-7-5 . Issuance of summons or warrant -- Time and place arrests may be made

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-- Contents of warrant or summons -- Responsibility for transporting prisoners.

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(1) As used in this section:

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(a) "Daytime hours" means the hours after 6 a.m. and before 10 p.m.

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(b) "Nighttime hours" means the hours after 10 p.m. and before 6 a.m.

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(c) "Temporary pretrial status order" means the same as that term is defined in Section

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77-20-102.

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(2) A magistrate may issue a warrant for arrest in lieu of a summons for the appearance of

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the accused only upon finding:

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(a) probable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public

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offense; and

- 31 (b) under Rule 6 of the Utah Rules of Criminal Procedure and this section that a warrant
32 is necessary to:
- 33 (i) prevent risk of injury to a person or property;
34 (ii) secure the appearance of the accused; or
35 (iii) protect the public safety and welfare of the community or an individual.
- 36 (3) There is a presumption against the issuance of a warrant in lieu of a summons if:
- 37 (a)(i) after being booked into jail on conduct that would constitute an offense, the
38 accused was released from jail because the prosecuting attorney did not file an
39 information within the time period required under Rule 9 of the Utah Rules of
40 Criminal Procedure; and
41 ~~(b)~~ (ii) the prosecuting attorney filed an information more than 60 days after the day
42 on which the accused was released from jail~~[-]~~ ; or
- 43 (b) after being booked into jail on conduct that would constitute an offense, a magistrate
44 issued a temporary pretrial status order that released the accused from jail.
- 45 (4) The presumption described in Subsection (3)(a) may be overcome if:
- 46 (a) the accused fails to appear on a served summons;
47 (b) a summons is unable to be served after good faith efforts~~[-or]~~ , including a good faith
48 effort to:
- 49 (i) serve the summons to the accused by delivering a copy to the accused's attorney of
50 record if the accused's attorney of record is known to the prosecuting attorney; or
51 (ii) obtain the accused's contact information from the accused's attorney of record if
52 the accused's attorney of record is known to the prosecuting attorney;
- 53 (c) the prosecuting attorney presents evidence that was not known to the magistrate at
54 the time the accused was released from jail; or
- 55 ~~(e)~~ (d) the prosecuting attorney otherwise establishes good cause for issuing a warrant
56 in lieu of a summons to:
- 57 (i) prevent risk of injury to a person or property; or
58 (ii) protect the public safety and welfare of the community or an individual.
- 59 (5) If the offense charged is:
- 60 (a) a felony, the arrest upon a warrant may be made at any time of the day or night; or
61 (b) a misdemeanor, the arrest upon a warrant may be made during nighttime hours only
62 if:
- 63 (i) the magistrate has endorsed authorization to do so on the warrant;
64 (ii) the person to be arrested is upon a public highway, in a public place, or in a place

- 65 open to or accessible to the public; or
- 66 (iii) the person to be arrested is encountered by a peace officer in the regular course
- 67 of that peace officer's investigation of a criminal offense unrelated to the
- 68 misdemeanor warrant for arrest.
- 69 (6)(a) If the magistrate determines that the accused must appear in court, the magistrate
- 70 shall include in the arrest warrant the name of the law enforcement agency in the
- 71 county or municipality with jurisdiction over the offense charged.
- 72 (b)(i) The law enforcement agency identified by the magistrate under Subsection
- 73 (6)(a) is responsible for providing inter-county transportation of the defendant, if
- 74 necessary, from the arresting law enforcement agency to the court site.
- 75 (ii) The law enforcement agency named on the warrant may contract with another
- 76 law enforcement agency to have a defendant transported.
- 77 (7) The law enforcement agency identified by the magistrate under Subsection (6)(a) shall
- 78 indicate to the court within 48 hours of the issuance, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and
- 79 legal holidays if a warrant issued in accordance with this section is an extradition
- 80 warrant.
- 81 (8) The law enforcement agency identified by the magistrate under Subsection (6)(a) shall
- 82 report any changes to the status of a warrant issued in accordance with this section to the
- 83 Bureau of Criminal Identification.

84 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

85 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.