

**Senator Patrice M. Arent** proposes the following substitute bill:

**AMENDMENTS TO UNSOLICITED  
COMMERCIAL AND SEXUALLY EXPLICIT  
EMAIL ACT**

2003 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Sponsor: Patrice M. Arent**

**This act modifies the Unsolicited Commercial and Sexually Explicit Email Act by providing additional definitions, modifying certain information that must be provided by a sender of an unsolicited commercial or sexually explicit email, eliminating the requirement for the sender of a sexually explicit email to provide a toll-free telephone number, changing the damages for a violation, and making technical changes.**

This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

AMENDS:

**13-36-102**, as enacted by Chapter 229, Laws of Utah 2002

**13-36-103**, as enacted by Chapter 229, Laws of Utah 2002

**13-36-105**, as enacted by Chapter 229, Laws of Utah 2002

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

Section 1. Section **13-36-102** is amended to read:

**13-36-102. Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Commercial" means for the purpose of promoting the sale, lease, or exchange of goods, services, or real property.

(2) "Computer network" means two or more computers that are interconnected to exchange electronic messages, files, data, or other information.

(3) (a) "Email" means an electronic message, file, data, or other information that is



26 transmitted to an email address:

27 ~~[(a)]~~ (i) between two or more computers, computer networks, or electronic terminals;

28 or

29 ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) within a computer network.

30 (b) "Email" does not include an Internet based electronic advertisement that is not  
31 transmitted to a specific email address.

32 (4) "Email address" means a destination, commonly expressed as a string of characters,  
33 to which email may be sent or delivered.

34 (5) "Email service provider" means a person that:

35 (a) is an intermediary in the transmission of email from the sender to the recipient; or

36 (b) provides to end users of email service the ability to send and receive email.

37 (6) "Internet domain name" means a globally unique, hierarchical reference to an  
38 Internet host or service, assigned through centralized Internet authorities, comprising a series of  
39 character strings separated by periods, with the right-most string specifying the top of the  
40 hierarchy.

41 (7) (a) "Preexisting business relationship" means a relationship formed by voluntary  
42 two-way communication, with or without an exchange of consideration, if:

43 (i) the recipient has indicated a willingness to receive email from the sender;

44 (ii) the recipient has requested information, goods, or services from the sender; or

45 (iii) the recipient has entered into a financial transaction with the sender.

46 (b) "Preexisting business relationship" does not include a relationship in which:

47 (i) the recipient has provided to the sender the notice described in Subsection

48 13-36-103(3); and

49 (ii) a reasonable period of time has expired since the recipient has provided to the  
50 sender the notice described in Subsection 13-36-103(3).

51 (8) "Sender" means a person that:

52 (a) sends an email:

53 (i) directly; or

54 (ii) through an intermediary;

55 (b) causes an email to be sent:

56 (i) directly; or

57 (ii) through an intermediary; or

58 (c) is a subsidiary of a person described in Subsections (8)(a) or (8)(b).

59 ~~[(7)]~~ (9) (a) "Sexually explicit email" means an email that contains, promotes, or  
60 contains an electronic link to material that is harmful to minors, as defined in Section  
61 76-10-1201.

62 (b) An email is a "sexually explicit email" if it meets the definition in Subsection ~~[(7)]~~  
63 (9)(a), even if the email also meets the definition of a commercial email.

64 (10) "Transmitted accidentally" means:

65 (a) the sender possesses a good faith belief that the recipient had given permission to  
66 receive an email; or

67 (b) the email was sent within a reasonable period of time after the recipient provided to  
68 the sender the notice described in Subsection 13-36-103(3).

69 ~~[(8)]~~ (11) (a) "Unsolicited" means without the recipient's express permission, except as  
70 provided in Subsection ~~[(8)]~~ (11)(b).

71 (b) A commercial email is not "unsolicited" if the sender has:

72 (i) a preexisting business [or] relationship with the recipient; or

73 (ii) a preexisting personal relationship with the recipient.

74 Section 2. Section **13-36-103** is amended to read:

75 **13-36-103. Unsolicited commercial or sexually explicit email -- Requirements.**

76 (1) Each person who sends or causes to be sent an unsolicited commercial email or an  
77 unsolicited sexually explicit email through the intermediary of an email service provider  
78 located in the state or to an email address held by a resident of the state shall:

79 (a) conspicuously state in the email the sender's:

80 (i) legal name;

81 (ii) correct street address; and

82 (iii) valid Internet domain name, if the sender has a valid Internet domain name;

83 (b) include in the email a subject line that contains:

84 (i) for a commercial email, "ADV:" as the first four characters; or

85 (ii) for a sexually explicit email, "ADV:ADULT" as the first nine characters;

86 (c) provide the recipient a convenient, no-cost mechanism to notify the sender not to

87 send any future email to the recipient, including ~~[-(i)]~~ return email to a valid, functioning return

88 electronic address; and

89 ~~[(ii) for a sexually explicit email and if the sender has a toll-free telephone number, the~~  
90 ~~sender's toll-free telephone number; and]~~

91 (d) conspicuously provide in the text of the email a notice that~~[(i)]~~ informs the  
92 recipient that the recipient may conveniently and at no cost be excluded from future  
93 commercial or sexually explicit email, as the case may be, from the sender~~[-and].~~

94 ~~[(ii) for a sexually explicit email and if the sender has a toll-free telephone number,~~  
95 ~~includes the sender's valid, toll-free telephone number that the recipient may call to be~~  
96 ~~excluded from future email from the sender.]~~

97 (2) A person who sends or causes to be sent an unsolicited commercial email or an  
98 unsolicited sexually explicit email through the intermediary of an email service provider  
99 located in the state or to an email address held by a resident of the state may not:

100 (a) use a third party's Internet domain name in identifying the ~~[point of origin]~~ sender  
101 or in stating the transmission path of the email without the third party's consent;

102 (b) misrepresent any information in identifying the ~~[point of origin]~~ sender or the  
103 transmission path of the email; or

104 (c) fail to include in the email the information necessary to identify the ~~[point of origin]~~  
105 sender of the email.

106 (3) If the recipient of an unsolicited commercial email or an unsolicited sexually  
107 explicit email notifies the sender that the recipient does not want to receive future commercial  
108 email or future sexually explicit email, respectively, from the sender, the sender may not, after  
109 a reasonable period of time has expired, send that recipient a commercial email or a sexually  
110 explicit email, as the case may be, either directly or through a subsidiary or affiliate.

111 Section 3. Section **13-36-105** is amended to read:

112 **13-36-105. Civil action for violation -- Election on damages -- Costs and attorney**  
113 **fees -- Defense.**

114 (1) For any violation of a provision of Section 13-36-103, an action may be brought by:

115 (a) a person who received the unsolicited commercial email or unsolicited sexually  
116 explicit email with respect to which the violation under Section 13-36-103 occurred; or

117 (b) an email service provider through whose facilities the unsolicited commercial email  
118 or unsolicited sexually explicit email was transmitted.

119 (2) In each action under Subsection (1):  
120 (a) a recipient or email service provider may:  
121 (i) recover actual damages; or  
122 (ii) elect, in lieu of actual damages, to recover the lesser of:  
123 (A) [~~\$10~~] \$75 per unsolicited commercial email or unsolicited sexually explicit email  
124 received by the recipient or transmitted through the email service provider; or

125 (B) \$25,000 per day that the violation occurs; and  
126 (b) each prevailing recipient or email service provider shall be awarded costs and  
127 reasonable attorney fees.

128 (3) An email service provider does not violate Section 13-36-103 solely by being an  
129 intermediary between the sender and recipient in the transmission of an email that violates that  
130 section.

131 (4) The violation of Section 13-36-103 by an employee does not subject the employee's  
132 employer to liability under that section if the employee's violation of Section 13-36-103 is also  
133 a violation of an established policy of the employer that requires compliance with the  
134 requirements of Section 13-36-103.

135 (5) It is a defense to an action brought under this section that the unsolicited  
136 commercial email or unsolicited sexually explicit email was transmitted accidentally.