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TRANSFER AND DISPOSITION OF
PROTECTED PROPERTY AMENDMENTS
2007 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Darin G. Peterson
House Sponsor: Richard W. Wheeler
LONG TITLE
General Description:
This bill modifies statutory forfeiture procedures, including transfer of a forfeiture to a
federal agency.
Highlighted Provisions:
This bill:
 provides additional procedural requirements regarding transfer of a forfeiture
process to a federal agency, including protection of the rights of affected parties;
 clarifies that forfeiture proceeds are allocated to the Criminal Forfeiture Restricted
Account;
 corrects specified cross references; and
makes technical amendments.
Monies Appropriated in this Bill:
None
Other Special Clauses:
None
Utah Code Sections Affected:
AMENDS:
24-1-8, as last amended by Chapter 185, Laws of Utah 2002
24-1-15 , as last amended by Chapter 296, Laws of Utah 2004
32A-13-103 , as last amended by Chapter 185, Laws of Utah 2002
53A-16-101 , as last amended by Chapter 166, Laws of Utah 2005

76-10-1107, as last amended by Chapter 185, Laws of Utah 2002
76-10-1108, as amended by Statewide Initiative B, Nov. 7, 2000, Laws of Utah 2000
76-10-1603.5 , as last amended by Chapter 185, Laws of Utah 2002
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
Section 1. Section 24-1-8 is amended to read:
24-1-8. Criminal procedures.
(1) In cases where an owner is criminally prosecuted for conduct giving rise to
forfeiture, the prosecuting attorney may elect to forfeit the owner's interest in the property
civilly or criminally, provided that no civil forfeiture judgment may be entered with respect to
the property of a defendant who is acquitted of the offense on which the forfeiture claim is
based.
(2) If the prosecuting attorney elects to criminally forfeit the owner's interest in the
property, the information or indictment must state that the owner's interest in the specifically
described property is subject to criminal forfeiture and the basis for the forfeiture.
(3) (a) Upon application of the prosecuting attorney, the court may enter restraining
orders or injunctions, or take other reasonable action to preserve for forfeiture under this
section any forfeitable property if, after notice to persons known, or discoverable after due
diligence, to have an interest in the property and after affording them an opportunity for a
hearing, the court determines that:
(i) there is a substantial probability that the state will prevail on the issue of forfeiture
and that failure to enter the order will result in the property being sold, transferred, destroyed,

(ii) the need to preserve the availability of the property or prevent its sale, transfer, destruction, or removal through the entry of the requested order outweighs the hardship against any party against whom the order is to be entered.

or removed from the jurisdiction of the court or otherwise made unavailable for forfeiture; and

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(b) A temporary restraining order may be entered ex parte upon application of the prosecuting attorney before or after an information or indictment has been filed with respect to

the property, if the prosecuting attorney demonstrates that:

(i) there is probable cause to believe that the property with respect to which the order is sought would, in the event of a conviction, be subject to forfeiture under this section; and

- (ii) provision of notice would jeopardize the availability of the property for forfeiture or would jeopardize an ongoing criminal investigation.
- (c) The temporary order expires not more than ten days after entry unless extended for good cause shown or unless the party against whom it is entered consents to an extension. An adversarial hearing concerning an order entered under this [paragraph] section shall be held as soon as practicable and prior to the expiration of the temporary order.
- (d) The court is not bound by the Utah Rules of Evidence regarding evidence it may receive and consider at any hearing under this [paragraph] section.
- (4) (a) Upon conviction by a jury of an owner for conduct giving rise to criminal forfeiture, the jury shall be instructed and asked to return a special verdict as to the extent of the property identified in the information or indictment, if any, that is forfeitable.
 - (b) Whether property is forfeitable shall be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.
- (5) (a) Upon conviction of a person for violating any provision of state law subjecting an owner's property to forfeiture and upon the jury's special verdict that the property is forfeitable, the court shall enter a judgment and order the property forfeited to the state [treasurer] upon the terms stated by the court in its order.
- (b) Following the entry of an order declaring property forfeited, the court may, upon application of the prosecuting attorney, enter appropriate restraining orders or injunctions, require the execution of satisfactory performance bonds, appoint receivers, conservators, appraisers, accountants, or trustees, or take any other action to protect the interest of the state in property ordered forfeited.
- (6) (a) After property is ordered forfeited under this section, the [state treasurer] seizing agency shall direct the disposition of the property under Section [24-1-16] 24-1-17. Any property right or interest not exercisable by or transferable for value to the state expires and does not revert to the defendant. The defendant or any person acting in concert with or on

behalf of the defendant is not eligible to purchase forfeited property at any sale held by the [state treasurer] seizing agency unless approved by the judge.

- (b) The court may stay the sale or disposition of the property pending the conclusion of any appeal of the criminal case giving rise to the forfeiture if the defendant demonstrates that proceeding with the sale or disposition of the property may result in irreparable injury, harm or loss to him.
- (7) Except under [Subparagraphs] Subsection (3) or (10), a party claiming an interest in property subject to criminal forfeiture under this section:
- (a) may not intervene in a trial or appeal of a criminal case involving the forfeiture of property under this section; and
- (b) may not commence an action at law or equity against the state or the county concerning the validity of his alleged interests in the property subsequent to the filing of an indictment or an information alleging that the property is subject to forfeiture under this section.
- (8) The district court of the state which has jurisdiction of a case under this part may enter orders under this section without regard to the location of any property which may be subject to forfeiture under this section, or which has been ordered forfeited under this section.
- (9) To facilitate the identification or location of property declared forfeited and to facilitate the disposition of petitions for remission or mitigation of forfeiture, after the entry of an order declaring property forfeited to the state [treasurer], the court[7] may upon application of the prosecuting attorney[7] order that the testimony of any witness relating to the property forfeited be taken by deposition, and that any book, paper, document, record, recording, or other material not privileged shall be produced as provided for depositions and discovery under the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.
- (10) (a) Following the entry of an order of forfeiture under this section, the prosecuting attorney shall publish notice of the order's intent to dispose of the property as the court may direct. The prosecuting attorney shall also provide direct written notice to any person known to have an alleged interest in the property subject to the order of forfeiture.

(b) Any person, other than the defendant, asserting a legal interest in property which has been ordered forfeited to the state [treasurer] under this section may, within 30 days of the final publication of notice or his receipt of written notice under [Subparagraph (a)] Subsection (10)(a), whichever is earlier, petition the court for a hearing to adjudicate the validity of his alleged interest in the property. Any genuine issue of material fact, including issues of standing, is triable to a jury upon demand of any party.

- (c) The petition shall be in writing and signed by the petitioner under penalty of perjury. It shall set forth the nature and extent of the petitioner's right, title, or interest in the property, the time and circumstances of the petitioner's acquisition of the right, title, or interest in the property, and any additional facts supporting the petitioner's claim and the relief sought.
- (d) The trial or hearing on the petition shall be expedited to the extent practicable. The court may consolidate a trial or hearing on the petition and any petition filed by any other person under this section other than the defendant. The court shall permit the parties to conduct pretrial discovery pursuant to the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.
- (e) At the trial or hearing, the petitioner may testify and present evidence and witnesses on his own behalf and cross-examine witnesses who appear at the hearing. The prosecuting attorney may present evidence and witnesses in rebuttal and in defense of the claim to the property and cross-examine witnesses who appear. In addition to testimony and evidence presented at the trial or hearing, the court may consider the relevant portion of the record of the criminal case which resulted in the order of forfeiture. Any trial or hearing shall be conducted pursuant to the Utah Rules of Evidence.
- (f) The court shall amend the order of forfeiture in accordance with its determination, if after the trial or hearing, the court or jury determines that the petitioner has established by a preponderance of the evidence that:
- (i) the petitioner has a legal right, title, or interest in the property, and the right, title, or interest renders the order of forfeiture invalid in whole or in part because the right, title, or interest was vested in the petitioner rather than the defendant or was superior to any right, title, or interest of the defendant at the time of the commission of the acts or conduct which gave rise

to the forfeiture of the property under this section; or

- (ii) the petitioner acquired the right, title or interest in the property in a bona fide transaction for value and, at the time of such acquisition, the petitioner did not know that the property was subject to forfeiture.
- (g) Following the court's disposition of all petitions filed under this [paragraph] Subsection (10), or if no petitions are filed following the expiration of the period provided in [Subparagraph (b)] Subsection (10)(b) for the filing of petitions, the state [treasurer] has clear title to property subject to the order of forfeiture and may warrant good title to any subsequent purchaser or transferee.
 - Section 2. Section **24-1-15** is amended to read:

24-1-15. Transfer and sharing procedures.

- (1) For purposes of this section, property is considered to be "seized" whenever any state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency takes possession of the property or exercises any degree of control over the property.
- (2) When property is seized pursuant to the order of a state district court or state statute, the state has priority jurisdiction.
- [(2) (a)] (3) Seizing agencies or prosecuting attorneys authorized to bring civil or criminal forfeiture proceedings under this chapter may not directly or indirectly transfer seized property not already named in a criminal indictment to any federal agency or any governmental entity not created under and subject to state law unless the court enters an order, upon petition of the prosecuting attorney, authorizing the property to be transferred. The court may not enter an order authorizing a transfer unless:
- [(i)] (a) the [activity] conduct giving rise to the investigation or seizure is interstate in nature and sufficiently complex to justify the transfer;
 - [(ii)] (b) the seized property may only be forfeited under federal law; or
- [(iii)] (c) pursuing forfeiture under state law would unreasonably burden prosecuting attorneys or state law enforcement agencies.
- (4) A petition to transfer property under this section to a federal agency shall include:

170	(a) a detailed description of the property seized;
171	(b) the location where the property was seized;
172	(c) the date the property was seized;
173	(d) case number assigned by the seizing law enforcement agency; and
174	(e) a sworn affidavit that:
175	(i) is signed by the prosecutor;
176	(ii) states the basis for relinquishing priority jurisdiction to a federal agency; and
177	(iii) contains the names and addresses of any potential owners then known.
178	$[\frac{b}{2}]$ Notwithstanding Subsection $[\frac{2}{a}]$, the court may refuse to enter an order
179	authorizing a transfer to the federal government if the transfer would circumvent the
180	protections of the Utah Constitution or of this chapter that would otherwise be available to the
181	property owner.
182	[(e)] (6) (a) Prior to granting any order to transfer pursuant to Subsection $[(2)(a)]$ (3) ,
183	the court [must] shall give any owner the right to be heard with regard to the transfer[.] by
184	sending notice to each address contained in the sworn affidavit.
185	(b) If no potential owner objects to the petition to transfer property within ten days of
186	the mailing of the notice, the court shall issue its order under this section.
187	(c) If the affidavit provides no address for a potential owner, the court shall delay its
188	order under this section for 20 days to allow time for the potential owner to appear and object.
189	(7) (a) If a potential owner contests a petition to transfer property to a federal agency,
190	the court shall promptly set the matter for hearing.
191	(b) The court shall determine whether the state may relinquish priority jurisdiction by a
192	preponderance of the evidence by considering hardship, complexity, judicial, and law
193	enforcement resources, and any other matter the court determines to be relevant.
194	[(3)] (8) (a) Subject to Subsection $[(3)]$ (8)(b), all property, money, or other things of
195	value received by an agency pursuant to federal law which authorizes the sharing or transfer of
196	all or a portion of forfeited property or the proceeds of the sale of forfeited property to an
197	agency:

198 (i) shall be used in compliance with federal rules and regulations relating to equitable 199 sharing; 200 (ii) shall be used only for those law enforcement purposes specified in Subsection 201 24-1-19(8); and 202 (iii) may not be used for those law enforcement purposes prohibited in Subsection 203 24-1-19(9). 204 (b) If an agency receives forfeiture proceeds under Subsection [(3)] (8)(a) that equal an 205 amount that is more than 25% greater than the annual budget of the receiving agency, the 206 amount of the proceeds that is in excess of 125% of the agency's annual budget shall be passed 207 through by the agency to the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice to be used for the 208 purposes under Section 24-1-19. 209 (c) Subject to Subsection [(3)] (8)(a), state agencies are encouraged to seek an 210 equitable share of property forfeited by the federal government and to cooperate with federal 211 law enforcement agencies in all cases in which cooperation is in the interest of this state. 212 (d) A law enforcement agency awarded any equitable share of property forfeited by the 213 federal government may only use the award monies after approval or appropriation by the 214 agency's legislative body. 215 (e) Law enforcement agencies are entitled to their equitable share of property forfeited 216 by the federal government since March 29, 2001. 217 (f) (i) Each agency awarded any equitable share of property forfeited by the federal government shall file copies of all federal equitable sharing certifications, applications, and 218 219 reports with the state auditor and the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice at least 220 annually. 221 (ii) This information shall provide details of all awards received from the federal 222 government during the preceding reporting period, including for each award: (A) the agency's case number or other identification; 223

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(B) the amount of the award;

(C) the date of the award;

226	(D) the identity of the federal agency involved in the forfeiture;
227	(E) how the awarded property has been used; and
228	(F) a statement signed by both the agency's executive officer or designee and by the
229	agency's legal counsel, that the agency has only used the awarded property for crime reduction
230	or law enforcement purposes authorized under Section 24-1-19, and only upon approval or
231	appropriation by the agency's legislative body.
232	[(4)] (9) (a) Any agency that violates Subsection $[(2)]$ (3) or $[(3)]$ (8) is civilly liable to
233	the state for three times the amount of the forfeiture diverted and for costs of suit and
234	reasonable [attorneys'] attorney fees.
235	(b) Any damages awarded to the state shall be paid to the Criminal Forfeiture
236	Restricted Account created in Section 24-1-18.
237	(c) Any agent, including a state law enforcement officer, detached to, deputized or
238	commissioned by, or working in conjunction with a federal agency, who knowingly transfers or
239	otherwise trades seized property in violation of Subsection $[\frac{(2)(a)}{2}]$ or who receives
240	property, money, or other things of value under Subsection [(3)] (8)(a) and knowingly fails to
241	transfer the property in accordance with this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.
242	Section 3. Section 32A-13-103 is amended to read:
243	32A-13-103. Searches, seizures, and forfeitures.
244	(1) The following are subject to forfeiture pursuant to the procedures and substantive
245	protections established in Title 24, Chapter 1, Utah Uniform Forfeiture Procedures Act:
246	(a) all alcoholic products possessed, used, offered for sale, sold, given, furnished,
247	supplied, received, purchased, stored, warehoused, manufactured, adulterated, shipped, carried,
248	transported, or distributed in violation of this title or commission rules;
249	(b) all packages or property used or intended for use as a container for an alcoholic
250	product in violation of this title or commission rules;
251	(c) all raw materials, products, and equipment used, or intended for use, in
252	manufacturing, processing, adulterating, delivering, importing, or exporting any alcoholic

product in violation of this title or commission rules;

(d) all implements, furniture, fixtures, or other personal property used or kept for any violation of this title or commission rules;

- (e) all conveyances including aircraft, vehicles, or vessels used or intended for use, to transport or in any manner facilitate the transportation, sale, receipt, possession, or concealment of property described in Subsection (1)(a), (b), (c), or (d); and
- (f) all books, records, receipts, ledgers, or other documents used or intended for use in violation of this title or commission rules.
- (2) Any of the property subject to forfeiture under this title may be seized by any peace officer of this state or any other person authorized by law upon process issued by any court having jurisdiction over the property in accordance with the procedures provided in Title 77, Chapter 23, Part 2, Search Warrants. However, seizure without process may be made when:
- (a) the seizure is incident to an arrest or search under a search warrant or an inspection under an administrative inspection warrant;
- (b) the property subject to seizure has been the subject of a prior judgment in favor of the state in a criminal injunction or forfeiture proceeding under this title;
- (c) the peace officer or other person authorized by law has probable cause to believe that the property is directly or indirectly dangerous to health or safety; or
- (d) the peace officer or other person authorized by law has probable cause to believe that the property is being or has been used, intended to be used, held, or kept in violation of this title or commission rules.
- (3) If the property is seized pursuant to a search or administrative warrant, the peace officer or other person authorized by law shall make a proper receipt, return, and inventory and ensure the safekeeping of the property as required by Sections 77-23-206 through 77-23-208. If the magistrate who issued the warrant is a justice court judge, upon the filing of the return the jurisdiction of the justice court shall cease and the magistrate shall certify the record and all files without delay to the district court of the county in which the property was located. From the time of this filing, the district court has jurisdiction of the case.
 - (4) In the event of seizure of property without process, the peace officer or other person

authorized by law shall make a return of his acts without delay directly to the district court of the county in which the property was located, and the district court shall have jurisdiction of the case. The return shall describe all property seized, the place where it was seized, and any persons in apparent possession of the property. The officer or other person shall also promptly deliver a written inventory of anything seized to any person in apparent authority at the premises where the seizure was made, or post it in a conspicuous place at the premises. The inventory shall state the place where the property is being held.

- (5) Property taken or detained under this section is not repleviable but is considered in custody of the law enforcement agency making the seizure subject only to the orders of the court or the official having jurisdiction. When property is seized under this title, the appropriate person or agency may:
 - (a) place the property under seal;

- (b) remove the property to a place designated by it or the warrant under which it was seized; or
- (c) take custody of the property and remove it to an appropriate location for disposition in accordance with law.
- (6) When any property is subject to forfeiture under this section, proceedings shall be instituted in accordance with the procedures and substantive protections of Title 24, Chapter 1, Utah Uniform Forfeiture Procedures Act.
- (7) When any property is ordered forfeited under Title 24, Chapter 1, Utah Uniform Forfeiture Procedures Act, by a finding of the court that no person is entitled to recover the property, the property, if an alcoholic product or a package used as a container for an alcoholic product, shall be disposed of as follows:
- (a) If the alcoholic product is unadulterated, pure, and free from crude, unrectified, or impure form of ethylic alcohol, or any other deleterious substance or liquid, and is otherwise in saleable condition, sold in accordance with Section [24-1-16] 24-1-17.
- (b) If the alcoholic product is impure, adulterated, or otherwise unfit for sale, it and its package or container shall be destroyed by the department under competent supervision.

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310	Section 4. Section 53A-16-101 is amended to read:
311	53A-16-101. Uniform School Fund Contents Interest and Dividends Account.
312	(1) The Uniform School Fund established by Utah Constitution, Article X, Section 5,
313	consists of:
314	(a) interest and dividends derived from the investment of monies in the permanent
315	State School Fund established by Utah Constitution, Article X, Section 5;
316	(b) money transferred to the fund pursuant to Title 67, Chapter 4a, Unclaimed Property
317	Act; and
318	[(c) revenue from the sale of forfeited property as provided by Title 24, Chapter 1,
319	Utah Uniform Forfeiture Procedures Act; and]
320	[(d)] (c) all other constitutional or legislative allocations to the fund, including
321	revenues received under Utah Constitution, Article XIII, Section 5, from taxes on income or
322	intangible property, except for those income tax revenues appropriated to the state's higher
323	education system.
324	(2) (a) There is created within the Uniform School Fund a restricted account known as
325	the Interest and Dividends Account.
326	(b) The Interest and Dividends Account consists of:
327	(i) interest and dividends derived from the investment of monies in the permanent State
328	School Fund referred to in Subsection (1)(a); and
329	(ii) interest on account monies.
330	(3) (a) Upon appropriation by the Legislature, monies from the Interest and Dividends
331	Account shall be used for the School LAND Trust Program as provided in Section
332	53A-16-101.5.
333	(b) The Legislature may appropriate any remaining balance for the support of the
334	public education system.

76-10-1107. Seizure and sale of devices or equipment used for gambling.

[(1) Whenever] When any magistrate [shall determine] determines that any devices or

Section 5. Section **76-10-1107** is amended to read:

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equipment [is] are being used or kept for the purpose of being used for gambling, the
magistrate may authorize the county commissioner of the county [wherein] where the seizure
occurred, in conjunction with the sheriff, or if the seizure occurred within the limits of an
incorporated city or town, may authorize its governing body, in conjunction with its chief law
enforcement officer, to seize the devices or equipment and institute forfeiture proceedings in
accordance with the procedures and substantive protections of Title 24, Chapter 1, Utah
Uniform Forfeiture Procedures Act.
[(2) The proceeds of any sale shall be paid to the Uniform School Fund, as provided in
Section 53A-16-101.]
Section 6. Section 76-10-1108 is amended to read:
76-10-1108. Seizure and disposition of gambling debts or proceeds.
[(1)] Any gambling bets or gambling proceeds which are reasonably identifiable as
having been used or obtained in violation of this part may be seized and are subject to
forfeiture proceedings in accordance with Title 24, Chapter 1, Utah Uniform Forfeiture
Procedures Act.
[(2) All sums forfeited under this section shall be paid to the Uniform School Fund,
Title 53A, Chapter 16, Section 101 of the Utah Code.]
Section 7. Section 76-10-1603.5 is amended to read:
76-10-1603.5. Violation a felony Costs Forfeiture Fines Divestiture
Restrictions Dissolution or reorganization Prior restraint.
(1) A person who violates any provision of Section 76-10-1603 is guilty of a second
degree felony. In addition to penalties prescribed by law, the court may order the person found
guilty of the felony to pay to the state, if the attorney general brought the action, or to the
county, if the county attorney or district attorney brought the action, the costs of investigating
and prosecuting the offense and the costs of securing the forfeitures provided for in this
section. The person shall forfeit [to the Uniform School Fund, as provided in Section
53A-16-101]:
(a) any interest acquired or maintained in violation of any provision of Section

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(b) any interest in, security of, claim against, or property or contractual right of any kind affording a source of influence over any enterprise which the person has established, operated, controlled, conducted, or participated in the conduct of in violation of Section 76-10-1603; and

- (c) any property constituting or derived from the net proceeds which the person obtained, directly or indirectly, from the conduct constituting the pattern of unlawful activity or from any act or conduct constituting the pattern of unlawful activity proven as part of the violation of any provision of Section 76-10-1603.
- (2) If a violation of Section 76-10-1603 is based on a pattern of unlawful activity consisting of acts or conduct in violation of Section 76-10-1204, 76-10-1205, 76-10-1206, or 76-10-1222, the property subject to forfeiture under this section is limited to property, the seizure or forfeiture of which would not constitute a prior restraint on the exercise of an affected party's rights under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States or <u>Utah Constitution</u> Article I, [Sec.] <u>Section 15 (of the Utah Constitution)</u>, or would not otherwise unlawfully interfere with the exercise of those rights.
- (3) In lieu of a fine otherwise authorized by law for a violation of Section 76-10-1603, a defendant who derives net proceeds from a conduct prohibited by Section 76-10-1603 may be fined not more than twice the amount of the net proceeds.
- (4) Property subject to [criminal] forfeiture in [accord] accordance with the procedures and substantive protections of Title 24, Chapter 1, Utah Uniform Forfeiture Procedures Act:
 - (a) includes:
 - (i) real property, including things growing on, affixed to, and found in land; and
- (ii) tangible and intangible personal property including money, rights, privileges, interests, claims, and securities of any kind; but
 - (b) does not include property exchanged or to be exchanged for services rendered in connection with the defense of the charges or any related criminal case.
- (5) Upon conviction for violating any provision of Section 76-10-1603, and in addition

to any penalty prescribed by law and in addition to any forfeitures provided for in this section, the court may do any or all of the following:

- (a) order the person to divest himself of any interest in or any control, direct or indirect, of any enterprise;
- (b) impose reasonable restrictions on the future activities or investments of any person, including prohibiting the person from engaging in the same type of endeavor as the enterprise engaged in, to the extent the Utah Constitution and the Constitution of the United States permit; or
 - (c) order the dissolution or reorganization of any enterprise.

- (6) If a violation of Section 76-10-1603 is based on a pattern of unlawful activity consisting of acts or conduct in violation of Section 76-10-1204, 76-10-1205, 76-10-1206, or 76-10-1222, the court may not enter any order that would amount to a prior restraint on the exercise of an affected party's rights under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States or Utah Constitution Article I, Section 15[, Utah Constitution].
- (7) All rights, title, and interest in forfeitable property described in Subsections (1) and (2) [vest in the state treasurer, on behalf of the Uniform School Fund, upon the commission of the act or conduct giving rise to the forfeiture under this section] are subject to forfeiture proceedings in accordance with the procedures and substantive protections of Title 24, Chapter 1, Utah Uniform Forfeiture Procedures Act.
- (8) For purposes of this section, the "net proceeds" of an offense means property acquired as a result of the violation minus the direct costs of acquiring the property.