

GOVERNMENT IMMUNITY WILDLIFE WAIVER

AMENDMENTS

2014 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Mike K. McKell

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies Title 63G, Chapter 7, Governmental Immunity Act of Utah.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ provides that governmental immunity is not waived for injury that arises out of, in connection with, or results from the activity of a wild animal; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

63G-7-301, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 382

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

Section 1. Section **63G-7-301** is amended to read:

63G-7-301. Waivers of immunity -- Exceptions.

(1) (a) Immunity from suit of each governmental entity is waived as to any contractual



28 obligation.

29 (b) Actions arising out of contractual rights or obligations are not subject to the
30 requirements of Sections [63G-7-401](#), [63G-7-402](#), [63G-7-403](#), or [63G-7-601](#).

31 (c) The Division of Water Resources is not liable for failure to deliver water from a
32 reservoir or associated facility authorized by Title 73, Chapter 26, Bear River Development
33 Act, if the failure to deliver the contractual amount of water is due to drought, other natural
34 condition, or safety condition that causes a deficiency in the amount of available water.

35 (2) Immunity from suit of each governmental entity is waived:

36 (a) as to any action brought to recover, obtain possession of, or quiet title to real or
37 personal property;

38 (b) as to any action brought to foreclose mortgages or other liens on real or personal
39 property, to determine any adverse claim on real or personal property, or to obtain an
40 adjudication about any mortgage or other lien that the governmental entity may have or claim
41 on real or personal property;

42 (c) as to any action based on the negligent destruction, damage, or loss of goods,
43 merchandise, or other property while it is in the possession of any governmental entity or
44 employee, if the property was seized for the purpose of forfeiture under any provision of state
45 law;

46 (d) subject to Subsection [63G-7-302](#)(1), as to any action brought under the authority of
47 Article I, Section 22, of the Utah Constitution, for the recovery of compensation from the
48 governmental entity when the governmental entity has taken or damaged private property for
49 public uses without just compensation;

50 (e) subject to Subsection [63G-7-302](#)(2), as to any action brought to recover attorney
51 fees under Sections [63G-2-405](#) and [63G-2-802](#);

52 (f) for actual damages under Title 67, Chapter 21, Utah Protection of Public Employees
53 Act; or

54 (g) as to any action brought to obtain relief from a land use regulation that imposes a
55 substantial burden on the free exercise of religion under Title 63L, Chapter 5, Utah Religious
56 Land Use Act.

57 (3) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), immunity from suit of each
58 governmental entity is waived as to any injury caused by:

59 (i) a defective, unsafe, or dangerous condition of any highway, road, street, alley,
60 crosswalk, sidewalk, culvert, tunnel, bridge, viaduct, or other structure located on them; or

61 (ii) any defective or dangerous condition of a public building, structure, dam, reservoir,
62 or other public improvement.

63 (b) Immunity from suit of each governmental entity is not waived if the injury arises
64 out of, in connection with, or results from:

65 (i) a latent dangerous or latent defective condition of any highway, road, street, alley,
66 crosswalk, sidewalk, culvert, tunnel, bridge, viaduct, or other structure located on them; or

67 (ii) a latent dangerous or latent defective condition of any public building, structure,
68 dam, reservoir, or other public improvement.

69 (4) Immunity from suit of each governmental entity is waived as to any injury
70 proximately caused by a negligent act or omission of an employee committed within the scope
71 of employment.

72 (5) Immunity from suit of each governmental entity is not waived under Subsections
73 (3) and (4) if the injury arises out of, in connection with, or results from:

74 (a) the exercise or performance, or the failure to exercise or perform, a discretionary
75 function, whether or not the discretion is abused;

76 (b) assault, battery, false imprisonment, false arrest, malicious prosecution, intentional
77 trespass, abuse of process, libel, slander, deceit, interference with contract rights, infliction of
78 mental anguish, or violation of civil rights;

79 (c) the issuance, denial, suspension, or revocation of, or by the failure or refusal to
80 issue, deny, suspend, or revoke, any permit, license, certificate, approval, order, or similar
81 authorization;

82 (d) a failure to make an inspection or by making an inadequate or negligent inspection;

83 (e) the institution or prosecution of any judicial or administrative proceeding, even if
84 malicious or without probable cause;

85 (f) a misrepresentation by an employee whether or not it is negligent or intentional;

86 (g) riots, unlawful assemblies, public demonstrations, mob violence, and civil
87 disturbances;

88 (h) the collection of and assessment of taxes;

89 (i) the activities of the Utah National Guard;

90 (j) the incarceration of any person in any state prison, county or city jail, or other place
91 of legal confinement;

92 (k) any natural condition on publicly owned or controlled lands;

93 (l) any condition existing in connection with an abandoned mine or mining operation;

94 (m) any activity authorized by the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
95 or the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands;

96 (n) the operation or existence of a pedestrian or equestrian trail that is along a ditch,
97 canal, stream, or river, regardless of ownership or operation of the ditch, canal, stream, or river,
98 if:

99 (i) the trail is designated under a general plan adopted by a municipality under Section
100 [10-9a-401](#) or by a county under Section [17-27a-401](#);

101 (ii) the trail right-of-way or the right-of-way where the trail is located is open to public
102 use as evidenced by a written agreement between the owner or operator of the trail
103 right-of-way, or of the right-of-way where the trail is located, and the municipality or county
104 where the trail is located; and

105 (iii) the written agreement:

106 (A) contains a plan for operation and maintenance of the trail; and

107 (B) provides that an owner or operator of the trail right-of-way or of the right-of-way
108 where the trail is located has, at minimum, the same level of immunity from suit as the
109 governmental entity in connection with or resulting from the use of the trail.

110 (o) research or implementation of cloud management or seeding for the clearing of fog;

111 (p) the management of flood waters, earthquakes, or natural disasters;

112 (q) the construction, repair, or operation of flood or storm systems;

113 (r) the operation of an emergency vehicle, while being driven in accordance with the
114 requirements of Section [41-6a-212](#);

115 (s) the activities of:

116 (i) providing emergency medical assistance;

117 (ii) fighting fire;

118 (iii) regulating, mitigating, or handling hazardous materials or hazardous wastes;

119 (iv) emergency evacuations;

120 (v) transporting or removing injured persons to a place where emergency medical

121 assistance can be rendered or where the person can be transported by a licensed ambulance
122 service; or

123 (vi) intervening during dam emergencies;

124 (t) the exercise or performance, or the failure to exercise or perform, any function
125 pursuant to Title 73, Chapter 10, Board of Water Resources - Division of Water Resources;
126 [or]

127 (u) unauthorized access to government records, data, or electronic information systems
128 by any person or entity[-]; or

129 (v) the activity of an animal belonging to a species that naturally occurs in the wild,
130 including hybridized animals, but excluding:

131 (i) privately owned animals held in captivity; and

132 (ii) humans.

Legislative Review Note

as of 1-6-14 5:41 PM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel