

**CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENTS**

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Daniel W. Thatcher**

House Sponsor: Lee B. Perry

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends criminal provisions relating to cybercrime and making a false report.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ modifies the elements, penalties, and defenses for computer crime;
- ▶ makes it a crime to interrupt or interfere with critical infrastructure;
- ▶ amends and enacts reporting requirements relating to computer crime or the interruption of, or interference with, critical infrastructure;
- ▶ amends provisions relating to raising a false alarm or filing a false report;
- ▶ amends the elements of electronic communication harrasment; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**76-6-702**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2005, Chapter 72

**76-6-703**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2010, Chapter 193



- 28            **76-6-705**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1993, Chapter 38
- 29            **76-9-105**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2002, Chapter 166
- 30            **76-9-201**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 326
- 31            **76-9-202**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2002, Chapter 166



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

34            Section 1. Section **76-6-702** is amended to read:

35            **76-6-702. Definitions.**

36            As used in this part:

37            (1) "Access" means to directly or indirectly use, attempt to use, instruct, communicate  
38 with, cause input to, cause output from, or otherwise make use of any resources of a computer,  
39 computer system, computer network, or any means of communication with any of them.

40            (2) "Authorization" means having the express or implied consent or permission of the  
41 owner, or of the person authorized by the owner to give consent or permission to access a  
42 computer, computer system, or computer network in a manner not exceeding the consent or  
43 permission.

44            (3) "Computer" means any electronic device or communication facility that stores,  
45 [~~retrieves,~~] processes, [~~or~~] transmits, or facilitates the transmission of data.

46            (4) "Computer system" means a set of related, connected or unconnected, devices,  
47 software, or other related computer equipment.

48            (5) "Computer network" means:

49            (a) the interconnection of communication or telecommunication lines between:

50            (i) computers; or

51            (ii) computers and remote terminals; or

52            (b) the interconnection by wireless technology between:

53            (i) computers; or

54            (ii) computers and remote terminals.

55            (6) "Computer property" includes electronic impulses, electronically produced data,  
56 information, financial instruments, software, or programs, in either machine or human readable  
57 form, any other tangible or intangible item relating to a computer, computer system, computer  
58 network, and copies of any of them.

59 (7) "Computer technology" includes:

60 (a) a computer;

61 (b) a computer network;

62 (c) computer hardware;

63 (d) a computer system;

64 (e) a computer program;

65 (f) computer services;

66 (g) computer software; or

67 (h) computer data.

68 [(7)] (8) "Confidential" means data, text, or computer property that is protected by a  
69 security system that clearly evidences that the owner or custodian intends that it not be  
70 available to others without the owner's or custodian's permission.

71 (9) "Critical infrastructure" includes:

72 (a) a communication or data system;

73 (b) a financial or banking system;

74 (c) any railroad, airline, airport, airway, highway, bridge, waterway, fixed guideway, or  
75 other transportation system intended for the transportation of persons or property;

76 (d) any public utility service, including a power, energy, gas, or water supply system;

77 (e) a sewage or water treatment system;

78 (f) a health care facility, as that term is defined in Section [26-21-2](#);

79 (g) an emergency fire, medical, or law enforcement response system;

80 (h) a public health facility or system;

81 (i) a food distribution system;

82 (j) a government computer system or network;

83 (k) a school; or

84 (l) other government facilities, operations, or services.

85 (10) "Denial of service attack" means an attack or intrusion that is intended to disrupt  
86 legitimate access to, or use of, a network resource, a machine, or computer technology.

87 [(12)] (11) "Financial instrument" includes any check, draft, money order, certificate of  
88 deposit, letter of credit, bill of exchange, electronic fund transfer, automated clearing house  
89 transaction, credit card, or marketable security.

90 [(8)] (12) "Information" does not include information obtained:

91 (a) through use of:

92 (i) an electronic product identification or tracking system; or

93 (ii) other technology used by a retailer to identify, track, or price goods; and

94 (b) by a retailer through the use of equipment designed to read the electronic product  
95 identification or tracking system data located within the retailer's location.

96 [(9)] (13) "License or entitlement" includes:

97 (a) licenses, certificates, and permits granted by governments;

98 (b) degrees, diplomas, and grades awarded by educational institutions;

99 (c) military ranks, grades, decorations, and awards;

100 (d) membership and standing in organizations and religious institutions;

101 (e) certification as a peace officer;

102 (f) credit reports; and

103 (g) another record or datum upon which a person may be reasonably expected to rely in  
104 making decisions that will have a direct benefit or detriment to another.

105 [(10)] (14) "Security system" means a computer, computer system, network, or  
106 computer property that has some form of access control technology implemented, such as  
107 encryption, password protection, other forced authentication, or access control designed to keep  
108 out unauthorized persons.

109 [(11)] (15) "Services" include computer time, data manipulation, and storage functions.

110 [(13)] (16) "Software" or "program" means a series of instructions or statements in a  
111 form acceptable to a computer, relating to the operations of the computer, or permitting the  
112 functioning of a computer system in a manner designed to provide results including system  
113 control programs, application programs, or copies of any of them.

114 Section 2. Section **76-6-703** is amended to read:

115 **76-6-703. Computer crimes and penalties -- Interfering with critical**  
116 **infrastructure.**

117 ~~[(1) A person who without authorization gains or attempts to gain access to and alters,~~  
118 ~~damages, destroys, discloses, or modifies any computer, computer network, computer property,~~  
119 ~~computer system, computer program, computer data or software, and thereby causes damage to~~  
120 ~~another, or obtains money, property, information, or a benefit for any person without legal~~

121 ~~right, is guilty of:]~~

122 (1) It is unlawful for a person to:

123 (a) without authorization, or in excess of the person's authorization, access or attempt  
124 to access computer technology if the access or attempt to access results in:

125 (i) the alteration, damage, destruction, copying, transmission, discovery, or disclosure  
126 of computer technology;

127 (ii) interference with or interruption of:

128 (A) the lawful use of computer technology; or

129 (B) the transmission of data;

130 (iii) physical damage to or loss of real, personal, or commercial property;

131 (iv) audio, video, or other surveillance of another person; or

132 (v) economic loss to any person or entity;

133 (b) after accessing computer technology that the person is authorized to access,  
134 knowingly take or attempt to take unauthorized or unlawful action that results in:

135 (i) the alteration, damage, destruction, copying, transmission, discovery, or disclosure  
136 of computer technology;

137 (ii) interference with or interruption of:

138 (A) the lawful use of computer technology; or

139 (B) the transmission of data;

140 (iii) physical damage to or loss of real, personal, or commercial property;

141 (iv) audio, video, or other surveillance of another person; or

142 (v) economic loss to any person or entity; or

143 (c) knowingly engage in a denial of service attack.

144 (2) A person who violates Subsection (1) is guilty of:

145 (a) a class B misdemeanor when:

146 (i) the economic loss or other loss or damage caused or the value of the money,  
147 property, or benefit obtained or sought to be obtained is less than \$500; or

148 (ii) the information obtained is not confidential;

149 (b) a class A misdemeanor when the economic loss or other loss or damage caused or  
150 the value of the money, property, or benefit obtained or sought to be obtained is or exceeds  
151 \$500 but is less than \$1,500;

152 (c) a third degree felony when the economic loss or other loss or damage caused or the  
153 value of the money, property, or benefit obtained or sought to be obtained is or exceeds \$1,500  
154 but is less than \$5,000;

155 (d) a second degree felony when the economic loss or other loss or damage caused or  
156 the value of the money, property, or benefit obtained or sought to be obtained is or exceeds  
157 \$5,000; or

158 (e) a third degree felony when:

159 (i) the property or benefit obtained or sought to be obtained is a license or entitlement;

160 (ii) the damage is to the license or entitlement of another person; [or]

161 (iii) the information obtained is confidential; or

162 (iv) in gaining access the person breaches or breaks through a security system.

163 ~~[(2)]~~ (3) (a) ~~[Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), a]~~ A person who intentionally or  
164 knowingly and without authorization gains or attempts to gain access to a computer, computer  
165 network, computer property, or computer system under circumstances not otherwise  
166 constituting an offense under this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

167 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection ~~[(2)]~~ (3)(a), a retailer that uses an electronic product  
168 identification or tracking system, or other technology, to identify, track, or price goods is not  
169 guilty of a violation of Subsection ~~[(2)]~~ (3)(a) if the equipment designed to read the electronic  
170 product identification or tracking system data and used by the retailer to identify, track, or price  
171 goods is located within the retailer's location.

172 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) A person who uses or knowingly allows another person to use any computer,  
173 computer network, computer property, or computer system, program, or software to devise or  
174 execute any artifice or scheme to defraud or to obtain money, property, services, or other things  
175 of value by false pretenses, promises, or representations, is guilty of an offense based on the  
176 value of the money, property, services, or things of value, in the degree set forth in Subsection  
177 76-10-1801(1).

178 ~~[(4) A person who intentionally or knowingly and without authorization, interferes~~  
179 ~~with or interrupts computer services to another authorized to receive the services is guilty of a~~  
180 ~~class A misdemeanor.]~~

181 (5) A person is guilty of a third degree felony if the person intentionally or knowingly,  
182 and without lawful authorization, interferes with or interrupts critical infrastructure.

183 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) It is an affirmative defense to ~~[Subsections]~~ Subsection (1) [and], (2), or (3)  
 184 that a person obtained access or attempted to obtain access:

185 (a) in response to, and for the purpose of protecting against or investigating, a prior  
 186 attempted or successful breach of security of ~~[a computer, computer network, computer~~  
 187 ~~property, computer system]~~ computer technology whose security the person is authorized or  
 188 entitled to protect, and the access attempted or obtained was no greater than reasonably  
 189 necessary for that purpose~~[-]; or~~

190 (b) pursuant to a search warrant or a lawful exception to the requirement to obtain a  
 191 search warrant.

192 Section 3. Section **76-6-705** is amended to read:

193 **76-6-705. Reporting violations.**

194 ~~[Every person, except those to whom a statutory or common law privilege applies,]~~

195 (1) Each person who has reason to believe that the provisions of Section **76-6-703** are  
 196 being or have been violated shall report the suspected violation to:

197 (a) the attorney general, or county attorney, or, if within a prosecution district, the  
 198 district attorney of the county or prosecution district in which part or all of the violations  
 199 occurred~~[-]; or~~

200 (b) a state or local law enforcement agency.

201 (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to the extent that the person is prohibited from  
 202 reporting by a statutory or common law privilege.

203 Section 4. Section **76-9-105** is amended to read:

204 **76-9-105. Making a false alarm -- Penalties.**

205 (1) A person is guilty of making a false alarm if he initiates or circulates a report or  
 206 warning of any fire, impending bombing, or other crime or catastrophe, knowing that the report  
 207 or warning is false or baseless and is likely to cause evacuation of any building, place of  
 208 assembly, or facility of public transport, to cause public inconvenience or alarm or action of  
 209 any sort by any official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies.

210 (2) (a) ~~[Making]~~ A person is guilty of a second degree felony if the person makes a  
 211 false alarm relating to a weapon of mass destruction as defined in Section **76-10-401** [is a  
 212 second degree felony].

213 (b) A person is guilty of a third degree felony if:

214 (i) the person makes a false alarm alleging on ongoing act or event, or an imminent  
215 threat; and

216 (ii) the false alarm causes or threatens to cause bodily harm, serious bodily injury, or  
217 death to another person.

218 [~~(b)~~] (c) Making a false alarm other than under Subsection (2)(a) or (b) is a class B  
219 misdemeanor.

220 (3) In addition to any other penalty authorized by law, a court shall order any person  
221 convicted of a felony violation of this section to reimburse any federal, state, or local unit of  
222 government, or any private business, organization, individual, or entity for all expenses and  
223 losses incurred in responding to the violation, unless the court states on the record the reasons  
224 why the court finds the reimbursement would be inappropriate.

225 Section 5. Section **76-9-201** is amended to read:

226 **76-9-201. Electronic communication harassment -- Definitions -- Penalties.**

227 (1) As used in this section:

228 (a) "Adult" means a person 18 years of age or older.

229 (b) "Electronic communication" means any communication by electronic,  
230 electro-mechanical, or electro-optical communication device for the transmission and reception  
231 of audio, image, or text but does not include broadcast transmissions or similar  
232 communications that are not targeted at any specific individual.

233 (c) "Electronic communication device" includes a telephone, a facsimile machine,  
234 electronic mail, [~~or~~] a pager, a computer, or any other device or medium that can be used to  
235 communicate electronically.

236 (d) "Minor" means a person who is younger than 18 years of age.

237 (e) "Personal identifying information" means the same as that term is defined in  
238 Section [76-6-1102](#).

239 (2) A person is guilty of electronic communication harassment and subject to  
240 prosecution in the jurisdiction where the communication originated or was received if with  
241 intent to [~~annoy, alarm,~~] intimidate, [~~offend,~~] abuse, threaten, harass, frighten, or disrupt the  
242 electronic communications of another, the person:

243 (a) (i) makes repeated contact by means of electronic communications, regardless of  
244 whether [~~or not~~] a conversation ensues; or



245 (ii) after the recipient has requested or informed the person not to contact the recipient,  
246 and the person repeatedly or continuously:

247 (A) contacts the electronic communication device of the recipient; or

248 (B) causes an electronic communication device of the recipient to ring or to receive  
249 other notification of attempted contact by means of electronic communication;

250 (b) makes contact by means of electronic communication and insults, taunts, or  
251 challenges the recipient of the communication or any person at the receiving location in a  
252 manner likely to provoke a violent or disorderly response;

253 (c) makes contact by means of electronic communication and threatens to inflict injury,  
254 physical harm, or damage to any person or the property of any person; [~~or~~]

255 (d) causes disruption, jamming, or overload of an electronic communication system  
256 through excessive message traffic or other means utilizing an electronic communication  
257 device[-]; or

258 (e) electronically publishes, posts, or otherwise discloses personal identifying  
259 information of another person, in a public online site or forum, without that person's  
260 permission.

261 (3) (a) (i) Electronic communication harassment committed against an adult is a class  
262 B misdemeanor, except under Subsection (3)(a)(ii).

263 (ii) A second or subsequent offense under Subsection (3)(a)(i) is a:

264 (A) class A misdemeanor if all prior violations of this section were committed against  
265 adults; and

266 (B) a third degree felony if any prior violation of this section was committed against a  
267 minor.

268 (b) (i) Electronic communication harassment committed against a minor is a class A  
269 misdemeanor, except under Subsection (3)(b)(ii).

270 (ii) A second or subsequent offense under Subsection (3)(b)(i) is a third degree felony,  
271 regardless of whether any prior violation of this section was committed against a minor or an  
272 adult.

273 (4) (a) Except under Subsection (4)(b), criminal prosecution under this section does not  
274 affect an individual's right to bring a civil action for damages suffered as a result of the  
275 commission of any of the offenses under this section.

276 (b) This section does not create any civil cause of action based on electronic  
277 communications made for legitimate business purposes.

278 Section 6. Section **76-9-202** is amended to read:

279 **76-9-202. Emergency reporting -- Interference -- False report.**

280 (1) As used in this section:

281 (a) "Emergency" means a situation in which property or human life is in jeopardy and  
282 the prompt summoning of aid is essential to the preservation of human life or property.

283 (b) "Party line" means a subscriber's line or telephone circuit [~~consisting~~]:

284 (i) that consists of two or more connected main telephone stations [~~connected~~  
285 therewith, each station with]; and

286 (ii) where each telephone station has a distinctive ring or telephone number.

287 (2) A person is guilty of emergency reporting abuse if [~~he~~] the person:

288 (a) intentionally refuses to yield or surrender the use of a party line or a public pay  
289 telephone to another person upon being informed that the telephone is needed to report a fire or  
290 summon police, medical, or other aid in case of emergency, unless the telephone is likewise  
291 being used for an emergency call;

292 (b) asks for or requests the use of a party line or a public pay telephone on the pretext  
293 that an emergency exists, knowing that no emergency exists; [~~or~~]

294 (c) reports an emergency or causes an emergency to be reported to any public, private,  
295 or volunteer entity whose purpose is to respond to fire, police, or medical emergencies, when  
296 the [~~actor~~] person knows the reported emergency does not exist[-]; or

297 (d) makes a false report, or intentionally aids, abets, or causes a third party to make a  
298 false report, to an emergency response service, including a law enforcement dispatcher or a 911  
299 emergency response service, if the false report claims that:

300 (i) an ongoing emergency exists;

301 (ii) the emergency described in Subsection (2)(d)(i) currently involves, or involves an  
302 imminent threat of, serious bodily injury, serious physical injury, or death; and

303 (iii) the emergency described in Subsection (2)(d)(i) is occurring at a specified  
304 location.

305 (3) (a) A violation of Subsection (2)(a) or (b) is a class C misdemeanor.

306 (b) A violation of Subsection (2)(c) is a class B misdemeanor, except as provided

307 under Subsection (3)(c).

308 (c) A violation of Subsection (2)(c) is a second degree felony if the report is regarding a  
309 weapon of mass destruction, as defined in Section [76-10-401](#).

310 (d) A violation of Subsection (2)(d):

311 (i) except as provided in Subsection (3)(d)(ii), is a third degree felony; or

312 (ii) is a second degree felony if, while acting in response to the report, the emergency  
313 responders cause physical injury to a person at the location described in Subsection (2)(d)(iii).

314 (4) (a) In addition to any other penalty authorized by law, a court shall order any person  
315 convicted of a violation of this section to reimburse;

316 (i) any federal, state, or local unit of government, or any private business, organization,  
317 individual, or entity for all expenses and losses incurred in responding to the violation[;  
318 unless]; and

319 (ii) any person described in Subsection (3)(d)(ii) for the costs for the treatment of the  
320 physical injury and any psychological injury caused by the offense.

321 (b) The court may order that the defendant pay less than the full amount of the costs  
322 described in Subsection (4)(a) only if the court states on the record the reasons why the  
323 reimbursement would be inappropriate.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**