

Logan J. Monson proposes the following substitute bill:

Emergency Reporting Abuse Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Logan J. Monson

Senate Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends the criminal offense of emergency reporting abuse.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- modifies the offense of emergency reporting abuse to include conduct in which an actor contacts a 911 emergency response service when the actor knows, or reasonably should know, that no actual or perceived emergency, crime, or other circumstance jeopardizing public safety exists;
- adds new penalties to the criminal offense of emergency reporting abuse;
- moves a definition to the statute in which the definition is referenced; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

76-9-105.5, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 173

76-9-105.6, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 173

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

Section 1. Section **76-9-105.5** is amended to read:

76-9-105.5 . Emergency reporting abuse.

(1)(a) As used in this section:

- (i) "Emergency" means a situation in which property or human life is in jeopardy and

29 the prompt summoning of aid is essential to the preservation of human life or
30 property.

31 [~~(ii) "Party line" means a subscriber's line or telephone circuit;~~]

32 [~~(A) that consists of two or more connected main telephone stations; and]~~

33 [~~(B) where each telephone station has a distinctive ring or telephone number.]~~

34 [~~(iii)~~] (ii) "Weapon of mass destruction" means the same as that term is defined in
35 Section 76-15-301.

36 (b) Terms defined in [~~Sections~~] Section 76-1-101.5 apply to this section.

37 (2) An actor commits emergency reporting abuse if the actor:

38 (a) reports an emergency or causes an emergency to be reported, through any means, to a
39 public, private, or volunteer entity whose purpose is to respond to fire, police, or
40 medical emergencies, when the actor knows the reported emergency does not exist;

41 (b) makes a false report, or intentionally aids, abets, or causes another person to make a
42 false report, through any means to an emergency response service, including a law
43 enforcement dispatcher or a 911 emergency response service, if the false report
44 claims that:

45 (i) an emergency exists or will exist;

46 (ii) the emergency described in Subsection (2)(b)(i) involves an imminent or future
47 threat of serious bodily injury, serious physical injury, or death; and

48 (iii) the emergency described in Subsection (2)(b)(i) is occurring, or will occur, at a
49 specified location; [~~or~~]

50 (c) makes a false report after having previously made a false report, or intentionally [
51 aides] aids, abets, or causes a third party to make a false report, to an emergency
52 response service, including a law enforcement dispatcher or a 911 emergency
53 response service, alleging a violation of Section 63G-31-302 regarding a
54 sex-designated changing room[~~;~~] ; or

55 (d)(i) under circumstances not amounting to an offense described in Subsection (2)(a)
56 or (b), contacts, through any means, a 911 emergency response service, when the
57 actor knows, or reasonably should know, that no actual or perceived emergency,
58 crime, or other circumstance jeopardizing public safety exists; and

59 (ii) has previously been informed by a 911 response service dispatcher, a law
60 enforcement officer, or a prosecuting attorney that the circumstance the actor is
61 reporting to a 911 emergency response service, or a substantially similar
62 circumstance, is not a circumstance that is appropriate for being reported to a 911

- 63 emergency response service.
- 64 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), (f), or (g), a violation of Subsection (2)(a)
65 is a class B misdemeanor.
- 66 (b) A violation of Subsection (2)(a) is a second degree felony if the report is regarding a
67 weapon of mass destruction.
- 68 (c) A violation of Subsection (2)(b) is a second degree felony.
- 69 (d) A violation of Subsection (2)(c) is a class B misdemeanor.
- 70 (e) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(f) or (g), a violation of Subsection (2)(d) is a
71 class B misdemeanor.
- 72 (f) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b) or (g), a violation of Subsection (2)(a) or (d)
73 is a class A misdemeanor if:
- 74 (i) the violation is the actor's third or subsequent conviction or adjudication under
75 Subsection (2)(a), (b), or (d); or
- 76 (ii)(A) the actor was reckless as to whether the actor's violation could jeopardize
77 the safety of any individual; and
- 78 (B) the actor's violation causes an emergency response, or a delay of an
79 emergency response to another request for emergency services, that results in
80 serious bodily injury to an individual or pecuniary loss equal to, or in excess,
81 of \$5,000 in value.
- 82 (g) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), a violation of Subsection (2)(a) or (d) is a
83 third degree felony if:
- 84 (i) the actor was reckless as to whether the actor's violation could jeopardize the
85 safety of any individual; and
- 86 (ii) the actor's violation causes an emergency response, or a delay of an emergency
87 response to another request for emergency services, that results in the death of any
88 individual.
- 89 (4)(a) In addition to another penalty authorized by law, a court shall order an actor
90 convicted of a violation of this section to:
- 91 (i) [~~to~~]reimburse a federal, state, or local unit of government, or a private business,
92 organization, individual, or entity for all expenses and losses incurred in
93 responding to the violation[-] ; and
- 94 (ii)(A) serve a minimum of four days of incarceration; or
95 (B) perform a minimum of 40 hours of community service.
- 96 (b) The court may order that the actor pay less than the full amount of the costs

97 described in Subsection [(4)(a)] (4)(a)(i) only if the court states on the record the
98 reasons why the reimbursement would be inappropriate.

99 Section 2. Section **76-9-105.6** is amended to read:

100 **76-9-105.6 . Prohibited use of a party line or public pay telephone in an**
101 **emergency.**

102 (1)(a) As used in this section:

103 (i) "Emergency" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-9-105.5.

104 (ii) "Party line" means [~~the same as that term is defined in Section 76-9-105.5.] a~~
105 subscriber's line or telephone circuit:

106 (A) that consists of two or more connected main telephone stations; and

107 (B) where each telephone station has a distinctive ring or telephone number.

108 (b) Terms defined in Section 76-1-101.5 apply to this section.

109 (2) An actor commits prohibited use of a party line or public pay telephone in an
110 emergency if the actor:

111 (a) intentionally refuses to yield or surrender the use of a party line or a public pay
112 telephone to another individual upon being informed that the party line or public pay
113 telephone is needed to report a fire or summon police, medical, or other aid in case of
114 an emergency; or

115 (b) asks for or requests the use of a party line or a public pay telephone on the pretext
116 that an emergency exists, knowing that no emergency exists.

117 (3) A violation of Subsection (2) is a class C misdemeanor.

118 (4) Subsection (2)(a) does not apply if the actor refuses to yield or surrender the use of the
119 party line or public pay telephone because the actor is using the party line or public pay
120 telephone to report an emergency.

121 (5)(a) In addition to another penalty authorized by law, a court shall order an actor
122 convicted of a violation of this section to reimburse a federal, state, or local unit of
123 government, or a private business, organization, individual, or entity for all expenses
124 and losses incurred in responding to the violation.

125 (b) The court may order that the actor pay less than the full amount of the costs
126 described in Subsection (5)(a) only if the court states on the record the reasons why
127 the full reimbursement would be inappropriate.

128 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

129 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.