



OFFICE OF THE
STATE AUDITOR

News Release

For Immediate Release

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State Auditor Provides Update for Screened HB 257-Related Complaints

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The following is a statement from State Auditor John Dougall:

Over the past three weeks, the Office of the State Auditor (Office) has received and screened over 12,000 complaints related to alleged violations under HB 257, codified at Utah Code 63G-31 (the Statute). Unfortunately, there clearly is still a misunderstanding of the Office's duties under the Statute. To reiterate: We only investigate alleged violations of the Statute by government entities. We will not investigate allegations about an individual's bathroom use, and we will not investigate or determine an individual's sex or gender.

Of the more than 12,000 complaints received, the overwhelming majority are frivolous at best and transparent hoaxes at worst. Indeed, we have identified only five complaints for which we will provide greater review. While none of those five complaints detail a clear allegation of a violation of Statute, each complaint might reflect a good-faith effort to attempt to make plausible allegation of a government entity's violation of Statute. We will review these five complaints to determine whether the allegations require further investigation, as required by the legislature's mandate codified in Statute.

About the Office of the State Auditor

The Office of the State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting Federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The Office also provides interactive graphical tools to help taxpayers and policymakers gain greater insight into governmental financial activities. These tools include the Transparent Utah Public Finance website (transparent.utah.gov) as well as the award-winning Project KIDS public education analysis dashboards (auditor.utah.gov/kids).

The State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every four years. The role of the State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see auditor.utah.gov.

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