



OFFICE OF THE
STATE AUDITOR

News Release

For Immediate Release

June 5, 2024

Office of the State Auditor Completes Investigation of Four HB 257-Related Complaints

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The following is a statement from State Auditor John Dougall:

On May 22, the Office of the State Auditor (Office) reported that it had screened complaints related to alleged violations under HB 257, codified at Utah Code 63G-31 (Statute). Of the more than 12,000 complaints received, the overwhelming majority were frivolous at best and transparent hoaxes at worst. During the screening process, we identified five complaints that we thought might reflect a good-faith effort to attempt to make plausible allegation of a government entity's violation of Statute. We have completed our review of four of the five complaints. We were unable to substantiate the allegations in any of the four complaints, but we did note two separate issues. We have sent letters to the four entities noting the following:

- The Office received a complaint regarding Duchesne County (County). During the Office's investigation, the County failed to provide the Office with the County's required privacy compliance plan. We have reminded the County of its duty to adopt a compliance plan and have allowed them 30 days to do so.
- The Office received a complaint regarding the Provo School District (PSD). The Office determined that PSD had not yet adopted a final privacy compliance plan, but PSD's draft privacy compliance plan appears to address the requirements of Statute. We have allowed PSD 30 days to adopt the plan.
- The Office received a complaint regarding the Alpine School District (ASD). The Office determined that ASD had a privacy compliance plan that appears to comply with Statute.
- The Office received a complaint regarding the North Sevier Recreation Center (Center). The Office determined that the Center had a privacy compliance plan that appears to comply with Statute.

The Office is still reviewing the fifth complaint. In addition, the Office has received additional complaints, all of which were determined to be either frivolous or transparent hoaxes.

The letters sent by the Office to each entity can be found respectively at the following links:

1. Duchesne County – reporting.auditor.utah.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=015Do0000017Zp9IAE
2. Provo School District – reporting.auditor.utah.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=015Do0000017ZIHIAU
3. Alpine School District – reporting.auditor.utah.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=015Do0000017ZICIAU
4. North Sevier Recreation Center – reporting.auditor.utah.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=015Do0000017ZpEIAU

The news release and related information may be found on the Office's website at auditor.utah.gov.

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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