

**JOINDER OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES**

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**LONG TITLE****General Description:**

This bill concerns the joinder of criminal offenses.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines and modifies terms;
- amends provisions concerning the joinder of criminal offenses; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:****AMENDS:****76-1-401**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1995, Chapter 20**RENUMBERS AND AMENDS:****77-2-10**, (Renumbered from 77-8a-1, as enacted by Laws of Utah 1990, Chapter 201)

---

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*Section 1. Section **76-1-401** is amended to read:**76-1-401. "Single criminal episode" defined -- Joinder of offenses and**

28 **defendants.**

29       (1) In this part, unless the context requires a different definition, "single criminal  
30 episode" means all conduct which is closely related in time and is incident to an attempt or an  
31 accomplishment of a single criminal objective.

32       (2) Nothing in this part shall be construed to limit or modify the effect of Section  
33 [~~77-8a-1~~] 77-2-10 in controlling the joinder of offenses and defendants in criminal  
34 proceedings.

35       Section 2. Section **77-2-10**, which is renumbered from Section 77-8a-1 is renumbered  
36 and amended to read:

37       ~~[77-8a-1]~~.     **77-2-10. Joinder of offenses and of defendants.**

38       (1) As used in this section:

39       (a) Offenses are "based on the same conduct" if the offenses are committed in a  
40 factually similar manner, regardless of temporal proximity.

41       (b) Offenses are "connected together in their commission" if the offenses, regardless of  
42 factual similarity, are part of a single criminal episode.

43       (c) Offenses are "part of a common scheme or plan" if the offenses involve a similar  
44 fact pattern and proximity in time.

45       (d) (i) Offenses are "the same or similar offenses" if the offenses are based on the same  
46 or similar criminal offense.

47       (ii) Criminal offenses described in Subsection (1)(d)(i) include:

48       (A) criminal homicide offenses in Title 76, Chapter 5, Part 2, Criminal Homicide;

49       (B) kidnapping, trafficking, and smuggling offenses in Title 76, Chapter 5, Part 3,  
50 Kidnapping, Trafficking, and Smuggling;

51       (C) sexual offenses in Title 76, Chapter 5, Part 4, Sexual Offenses;

52       (D) burglary and criminal trespass offenses in Title 76, Chapter 6, Part 2, Burglary and  
53 Criminal Trespass;

54       (E) robbery offenses in Title 76, Chapter 6, Part 3, Robbery;

55       (F) theft offenses in Title 76, Chapter 6, Part 4, Theft;

56       (G) fraud offenses in Title 61, Chapter 1, Utah Uniform Securities Act, and Title 76,  
57 Chapter 6, Part 5, Fraud; and

58       (H) retail theft offenses in Title 76, Chapter 6, Part 6, Retail Theft.

59           (2) Two or more felonies, misdemeanors, or both, may be charged in the same  
60 indictment or information if each offense is a separate count and if the offenses charged are:

61           (a) based on the same conduct or are otherwise connected together in their  
62 commission; ~~[or]~~

63           (b) alleged to have been part of a common scheme or plan~~[-]; or~~

64           (c) the repeated commission of the same or similar offenses, regardless of temporal  
65 proximity.

66           ~~[(2)]~~ (3) (a) When a felony and misdemeanor are charged together the defendant is  
67 afforded a preliminary hearing with respect to both the misdemeanor and felony offenses.

68           (b) Two or more defendants may be charged in the same indictment or information if  
69 ~~[they]~~ the defendants are alleged to have participated in the same act or conduct or in the same  
70 criminal episode.

71           (c) The defendants may be charged in one or more counts together or separately and all  
72 of the defendants need not be charged in each count.

73           (d) When two or more defendants are jointly charged with any offense, ~~[they]~~ the  
74 defendants shall be tried jointly unless the court in its discretion on motion or otherwise orders  
75 separate trials consistent with the interests of justice.

76           ~~[(3)]~~ (4) (a) The court may order two or more indictments or informations or both to be  
77 tried together if the offenses, and the defendants, if there is more than one, could have been  
78 joined in a single indictment or information.

79           (b) The procedure shall be the same as if the prosecution were under a single  
80 indictment or information.

81           ~~[(4)]~~ (5) (a) If the court finds a defendant or the prosecution ~~[is prejudiced]~~ would  
82 suffer undue prejudice by a joinder of offenses or defendants in an indictment or information or  
83 by a joinder for trial together, the court shall order an election of separate trials of separate  
84 counts, grant a severance of defendants, or provide other relief as justice requires.

85           (b) (i) A defendant's right to challenge severance of offenses or defendants is waived if  
86 the motion is not made at least five days before trial.

87           (ii) In ruling on a motion by a defendant for severance, the court may order the  
88 prosecutor to disclose any statements made by the defendants ~~[which he]~~ that the prosecutor  
89 intends to introduce in evidence at the trial.