

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1689

As Amended by the Senate

Title: An act relating to impersonation of a law enforcement officer.

Brief Description: Making it a misdemeanor to impersonate a law enforcement officer.

Sponsors: Representatives Chappell, Springer, Appelwick, Riley, Campbell, Brough, Basich, J. Kohl and Johanson.

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:
Judiciary, March 2, 1993, DP;
Passed House, March 11, 1993, 98-0;
Amended by Senate.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 17 members:
Representatives Appelwick, Chair; Ludwig, Vice Chair;
Padden, Ranking Minority Member; Ballasiotes, Assistant
Ranking Minority Member; Campbell; Chappell; Forner;
Johanson; Locke; Long; Mastin; H. Myers; Riley; Schmidt;
Scott; Tate; and Wineberry.

Staff: Bill Perry (786-7123).

Background: A person can commit the crime of criminal impersonation in either of two ways. First, the crime may be committed by assuming a false identity and acting with an unlawful purpose. Second, the crime may be committed by pretending to be a representative of another person and acting with an unlawful purpose. The crime is a gross misdemeanor.

Summary of Bill: The crime of criminal impersonation is amended to include two degrees. The existing crime is designated first-degree criminal impersonation.

The new crime of second-degree criminal impersonation is created. The crime is committed by claiming to be, or creating the impression that one is, a law enforcement officer and, under circumstances not amounting to the first-degree crime, acting with the intent to convey the impression that one is acting in an official capacity.

The second-degree crime is a misdemeanor.

EFFECT OF SENATE AMENDMENT(S): The Senate amendment adds as an element of the crime the requirement that "a reasonable person would believe the person is a law enforcement officer." That is, in order for an impersonation to be criminal, it must be convincing enough that a reasonable person would believe it.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: None.

Testimony Against: None.

Witnesses: None.

VOTE ON FINAL PASSAGE:

Yeas 98