

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1205**

Chapter 51, Laws of 2025

69th Legislature  
2025 Regular Session

FORGED DIGITAL LIKENESS—CRIMINAL IMPERSONATION

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 27, 2025

Passed by the House March 4, 2025  
Yeas 90 Nays 7

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 4, 2025  
Yeas 43 Nays 6

DENNY HECK

**President of the Senate**

Approved April 16, 2025 10:18 AM

BOB FERGUSON

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1205** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

**Chief Clerk**

FILED

April 16, 2025

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1205**

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Passed Legislature - 2025 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      69th Legislature                      2025 Regular Session**

**By** House Community Safety (originally sponsored by Representatives Ryu, Obras, Cortes, Callan, Pollet, Kloba, and Timmons)

READ FIRST TIME 02/14/25.

1            AN ACT Relating to prohibiting the knowing distribution of a  
2 forged digital likeness; and reenacting and amending RCW 9A.60.010  
3 and 9A.60.045.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 9A.60.010 and 2011 c 336 s 381 are each reenacted  
6 and amended to read as follows:

7            The following definitions and the definitions of RCW 9A.56.010  
8 are applicable in this chapter unless the context otherwise requires:

9            (1) "Complete written instrument" means one which is fully drawn  
10 with respect to every essential feature thereof;

11            (2) "Incomplete written instrument" means one which contains some  
12 matter by way of content or authentication but which requires  
13 additional matter in order to render it a complete written  
14 instrument;

15            (3) To "falsely alter" a written instrument means to change,  
16 without authorization by anyone entitled to grant it, a written  
17 instrument, whether complete or incomplete, by means of erasure,  
18 obliteration, deletion, insertion of new matter, transposition of  
19 matter, or in any other manner;

20            (4) To "falsely complete" a written instrument means to transform  
21 an incomplete written instrument into a complete one by adding or

1 inserting matter, without the authority of anyone entitled to grant  
2 it;

3 (5) To "falsely make" a written instrument means to make or draw  
4 a complete or incomplete written instrument which purports to be  
5 authentic, but which is not authentic either because the ostensible  
6 maker is fictitious or because, if real, he or she did not authorize  
7 the making or drawing thereof;

8 (6) "Forged digital likeness" means a visual representation of an  
9 actual and identifiable individual, or an audio recording of an  
10 actual and identifiable individual's voice, which:

11 (a) Has been digitally created, adapted, altered, or modified to  
12 be indistinguishable from a genuine visual representation or audio  
13 recording of the individual;

14 (b) Misrepresents the appearance, speech, or conduct of the  
15 individual; and

16 (c) Is likely to deceive a reasonable person into believing that  
17 the visual representation or audio recording is genuine;

18 (7) "Forged instrument" means a written instrument which has been  
19 falsely made, completed, or altered;

20 ((+7)) (8) "Visual representation" means any pictorial or motion  
21 picture representation, regardless of the media used;

22 (9) "Written instrument" means: (a) Any paper, document, or other  
23 instrument containing written or printed matter or its equivalent; or  
24 (b) any access device, token, stamp, seal, badge, trademark, or other  
25 evidence or symbol of value, right, privilege, or identification.

26 **Sec. 2.** RCW 9A.60.045 and 2004 c 124 s 1 and 2004 c 11 s 2 are  
27 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

28 (1) A person is guilty of criminal impersonation in the second  
29 degree if the person:

30 (a)(i) Claims to be a law enforcement officer or creates an  
31 impression that he or she is a law enforcement officer; and

32 (ii) Under circumstances not amounting to criminal impersonation  
33 in the first degree, does an act with intent to convey the impression  
34 that he or she is acting in an official capacity and a reasonable  
35 person would believe the person is a law enforcement officer; ((+))

36 (b) Falsely assumes the identity of a veteran or active duty  
37 member of the armed forces of the United States with intent to  
38 defraud for the purpose of personal gain or to facilitate any  
39 unlawful activity; or

1 (c)(i) Knowingly distributes a forged digital likeness of another  
2 person as a genuine visual representation or audio recording with  
3 intent to defraud, harass, threaten, or intimidate another or for any  
4 other unlawful purpose; and

5 (ii) Knows or reasonably should know that the forged digital  
6 likeness is not genuine.

7 (2) Criminal impersonation in the second degree is a gross  
8 misdemeanor.

9 (3) Nothing in subsection (1)(c) of this section shall be  
10 construed to prohibit the distribution of visual representations or  
11 audio recordings for matters of cultural, historical, political,  
12 religious, educational, newsworthy, or public interest including, but  
13 not limited to, use in works of art, commentary, satire, and parody  
14 protected by the Washington state Constitution or the United States  
15 Constitution.

16 (4) Nothing in subsection (1)(c) of this section shall be  
17 construed to impose liability upon the following entities solely as a  
18 result of content provided by another person:

19 (a) An interactive computer service, as defined in Title 47  
20 U.S.C. Sec. 230(f)(2);

21 (b) A mobile telecommunications service provider, as defined in  
22 RCW 82.04.065; or

23 (c) A telecommunications network or broadband provider.

Passed by the House March 4, 2025.

Passed by the Senate April 4, 2025.

Approved by the Governor April 16, 2025.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 16, 2025.

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