



ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session

Senate: APPROP DPA/SE 9-0-1-0 | 3rd Read: 26-2-2-0

SB 1001: extortion; social media; messages

Sponsor: Senator Leach, LD 11

Committee on Judiciary

Overview

Modifies the definition of *theft by extortion* to include a threat to expose a secret via *social media message* if the threat was made with the intent to gain property or services.

History

The crime of *theft by extortion* occurs when a person knowingly seeks to gain property or services by threatening to:

- 1) Cause physical injury to a person with a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument;
- 2) Cause death or serious injury to a person;
- 3) Cause physical injury by means other than a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument;
- 4) Cause damage to property;
- 5) Engage in other conduct constituting an offense;
- 6) Accuse a person of a crime or bring criminal charges;
- 7) Expose a secret, regardless of its truth, which could subject a person to hatred, contempt or ridicule or impair the person's credit or business;
- 8) Take or withhold action as a public servant or cause a public servant to take or withhold action;
- 9) Cause someone to part with property; or
- 10) Take or withhold action in specified property disputes.

Theft by extortion is a class 4 felony unless the threat is made to cause physical injury involving a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument, or to cause serious physical injury or death, in which case the crime constitutes a class 2 felony ([A.R.S. § 13-1804](#)).

Provisions

1. Alters the definition of *theft by extortion* to include a person knowingly seeking property or services by threatening the exposure of a secret or asserted fact in a *social media message*. (Sec. 1)
2. Makes technical changes. (Sec. 1)

☐ Prop 105 (45 votes)

☐ Prop 108 (40 votes)

☐ Emergency (40 votes)

☐ Fiscal Note