

REFERENCE TITLE: false reporting; public alarm; classification

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
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2024

HB 2508

Introduced by
Representatives Gress: Biasiucci, Blattman, Bliss, Carbone, Chaplik, Dunn,
Hernandez A, Hernandez C, Livingston, Payne, Peña, Shah, Willoughby,
Wilmeth; Senators Borrelli, Shamp

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 13-2907, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO OFFENSES
AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 13-2907, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 13-2907. False reporting; emergency response costs;
5 classification; definitions

6 A. A person commits false reporting by initiating or circulating a
7 report of a bombing, fire, offense or other emergency knowing that such
8 report is false and intending:

9 1. That it will cause action of any sort by an official or
10 volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies; or

11 2. That it will place a person in fear of imminent serious physical
12 injury; or

13 3. That it will prevent or interrupt the occupation of any
14 building, room, place of assembly, public place or means of
15 transportation; OR -

16 4. THAT IT WILL CAUSE PUBLIC ALARM OR AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE.

17 B. A person who commits a violation of this section that results in
18 an emergency response or investigation of false reporting and who is
19 convicted of a violation of this section is liable for the expenses that
20 are incurred incident to the emergency response or the investigation of
21 the commission of false reporting, except that if the person is a juvenile
22 who is adjudicated delinquent of a violation of this section, the court
23 may order the juvenile to pay the expenses incurred under this subsection
24 as restitution. The expenses are a debt of the person. The public
25 agency, for profit entity or not-for-profit entity that incurred the
26 expenses may collect the debt proportionally. The liability that is
27 imposed under this subsection is in addition to any other liability that
28 may be imposed.

29 C. False reporting is a class 1 misdemeanor, except that FALSE
30 REPORTING IS A CLASS 6 FELONY IF EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING APPLIES:

31 1. THE PERSON COMMITS a second or subsequent violation ~~is a class 6~~
32 ~~felony~~.

33 2. THE PERSON COMMITS A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION
34 INVOLVING AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OR ANY PLACE USED FOR WORSHIP OR FOR
35 RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

36 D. For the purposes of this section:

37 1. "EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION" MEANS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

38 (a) A PUBLIC SCHOOL AS DEFINED IN SECTION 15-101.

39 (b) A PRIVATE SCHOOL THAT PROVIDES INSTRUCTION TO PUPILS IN ANY
40 COMBINATION OF KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AND GRADES ONE THROUGH TWELVE.

41 (c) A COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 15-1401.

42 (d) A UNIVERSITY THAT IS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ARIZONA
43 BOARD OF REGENTS.

44 (e) A PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION THAT IS LICENSED UNDER
45 TITLE 32, CHAPTER 30, ARTICLE 2.

1 (f) A COLLEGE IN THIS STATE THAT IS OWNED, OPERATED OR CHARTERED BY
2 A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE ON THE TRIBE'S OWN INDIAN
3 RESERVATION.

4 ~~1.~~ 2. "Expenses":

5 (a) Means any reasonable costs that are directly incurred by a
6 public agency, for profit entity or not-for-profit entity that makes an
7 appropriate emergency response to an incident or an investigation of the
8 commission of false reporting. ~~Expenses~~

9 (b) Includes the costs of providing police, fire fighting, rescue
10 and emergency medical services at the scene of an incident and the
11 salaries of the persons who respond to the incident. ~~Expenses~~

12 (c) Does not include any charges that are assessed by an ambulance
13 service that is regulated pursuant to title 36, chapter 21.1, article 2.

14 ~~2.~~ 3. "Public agency" means THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, this state,
15 any city, county, municipal corporation or district, any Arizona federally
16 recognized Native American tribe or any other public authority that is
17 located in whole or in part in this state and that provides police, fire
18 fighting, medical or other emergency services.