Governor Signs Representative Diaz’s Bill to Toughen Penalties for Filing False Records & Combat Fraud

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representative Lupe Diaz praised the enactment of HB 2645, legislation he sponsored to toughen penalties and combat fraud involving someone who knowingly files false records. It was signed into law today by Governor Ducey.

The new law increases, from a class 1 misdemeanor to a class 3 felony, the penalty for a person who is statutorily not entitled to file a record, who causes a record to be filed in the records of a filing office and who knows or has reason to know that the record is unauthorized or contains a material misstatement or false claim.

“Crimes such as home title and identity theft are increasingly occurring in Arizona and across the country,” said Representative Diaz. “Perpetrating these fraudulent crimes commonly involves the intentional filing of false or unauthorized records or statements. Victims often face devastating financial losses and an overwhelming process to reclaim property or safeguard personal data. This new law increases the legal penalty, for those who knowingly cause an unauthorized uniform commercial code transaction, to a 3rd class felony, which will help prosecutors to hold criminals accountable and to pursue justice for victims.”

HB 2645 is Representative Diaz’s first bill to become a state law, following his appointment to the House in November 2021.

Lupe Diaz is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 14, which covers Cochise and Greenlee counties, southern Graham County, and a portion of Pima County. Follow him on Twitter at @LupeDiaz4AZ.

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