

House Engrossed

~~false reporting; public alarm; classification~~
(now: public alarm; false reporting; classification)

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

CHAPTER 97
HOUSE BILL 2508

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.

16 B. A PERSON COMMITS FALSE REPORTING BY INITIATING A REPORT OF A
17 SERIOUS OFFENSE INVOLVING AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OR ANY PLACE USED FOR
18 WORSHIP OR FOR RELIGIOUS SERVICES KNOWING THAT SUCH REPORT IS FALSE AND
19 INTENDING THAT IT WILL CAUSE AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE.

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

32 ~~C.~~ D. ~~False reporting~~ A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION
33 is a class 1 misdemeanor, except that a second or subsequent violation is
34 a class 6 felony. A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION IS A CLASS
35 6 FELONY.

36 ~~D.~~ E. 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.

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

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

6 2. "EMERGENCY RESPONSE" MEANS AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE BY A LAW
7 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

8 ~~1.~~ 3. "Expenses" means any reasonable costs that are directly
9 incurred by a public agency, for profit entity or not-for-profit entity
10 that makes an appropriate emergency response to an incident or an
11 investigation of the commission of false reporting. Expenses includes the
12 costs of providing police, fire fighting, rescue and emergency medical
13 services at the scene of an incident and the salaries of the persons who
14 respond to the incident. Expenses does not include any charges that are
15 assessed by an ambulance service that is regulated pursuant to title 36,
16 chapter 21.1, article 2.

17 ~~2.~~ 4. "Public agency" means this state, any city, county,
18 municipal corporation or district, any Arizona federally recognized Native
19 American tribe or any other public authority that is located in whole or
20 in part in this state and that provides police, fire fighting, medical or
21 other emergency services.

22 5. "SERIOUS OFFENSE" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS PROVIDED IN SECTION
23 13-706.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR APRIL 8, 2024.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 8, 2024.