

REFERENCE TITLE: false reporting; public alarm; classification.

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2024

# SB 1144

Introduced by  
Senator Kern: Representatives Heap, Hendrix, Jones

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.