
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 483

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CRIME OF DIGITAL FORGERY.

SUMMARY

This bill creates a new crime of digital forgery, which is when someone, intending to financially injure someone else, makes and disseminates a visual representation or audio recording that he or she knows or should have known is a digitally forged likeness.

Under the bill, a “digitally forged likeness” is visual representation (such a photo, film, or videotape) or an audio recording, created without consent from the person whose image or voice is included, that is (1) not entirely recorded by a camera or audio recorder or (2) generated, at least in part, by a computer system. It appears the same as what a reasonable person would think is the actual image or sound of the person involved.

The bill makes committing digital forgery generally a class A misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to three months in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both. It is a class E felony, however, to commit it as part of a scheme, either as the initiator or as a participant. A class E felony is punishable by up to three years in prison, a fine of up to \$3,500, or both.

The bill exempts representations or recordings created or disseminated by law enforcement as part of official duties. It also gives a defendant to this crime an affirmative defense that he or she took reasonable steps to inform viewers or listeners that the representation or recording is a digitally forged likeness. (In general, an affirmative defense allows a defendant to introduce evidence, which, if found to be credible, will negate the defendant’s liability, even if the defendant committed the alleged acts.)

Lastly, the bill specifies that it does not make interactive computer or

telecommunication services providers liable for creating content at someone's request or disseminating content from someone unless they knew that doing so violated the bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 0 (03/23/2026)