

2016 SESSION

INTRODUCED

16103433D

SENATE BILL NO. 760

Offered January 22, 2016

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-152.7:2, relating to digital impersonation; penalty.*

Patron—McEachin

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 18.2-152.7:2 as follows:

§ 18.2-152.7:2. *Digital impersonation; penalty.*

Any person who knowingly and without authorization credibly impersonates a living individual through or on a website, including blogging, email, social networking, or other online accounts, or by any other electronic means, with the intent to injure or defraud another person is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. For purposes of this section, an impersonation is credible if a reasonable person would believe the defendant was in fact the person who was impersonated. For purposes of this section, injury may include injury to character or reputation. Nothing in this section shall apply to a law-enforcement officer in the performance of his official duties or to impersonations that are intended to cause only emotional distress or temporary embarrassment or discomfort.

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