

1997 SESSION

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SENATE BILL NO. 681

Senate Amendments in [ ] — January 30, 1997

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 24.2-1014.1, relating to the alteration of photographs or films in campaign advertisements to misrepresent candidates for public office; penalty.

Patrons—Marsh, Colgan, Gartlan, Howell, Lambert, Maxwell and Miller, Y.B.; Delegates: Jones, D.C. and McEachin

Referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 24.2-1014.1 as follows:

§ 24.2-1014.1. Altering photographs or films in campaign advertisements to misrepresent candidates for public office; penalty.

Any person who knowingly [ ~~and willfully~~, willfully, and maliciously ] authorizes the alteration of, or alters, a photograph or film for use in an advertisement made for the purpose of influencing the outcome of an election for public office, so as to convey false information concerning any candidate for nomination or election to that office, shall be guilty of a Class [ ~~5 felony~~ 1 misdemeanor ] . The provisions of this section shall be applicable only to an advertisement which is published by, or offered for publication to, a news service, newspaper, magazine, television station, or cable service.

2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment in state correctional facilities. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation is \$ 0.

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