

By the Committee on Judiciary; and Senator Boyd

590-03537-21

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to false reports of crimes; amending
3 s. 817.49, F.S.; defining the term "public safety
4 agency"; authorizing enhanced fines for the willful
5 making of false reports of crimes under certain
6 circumstances; providing an effective date.

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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10 Section 1. Section 817.49, Florida Statutes, is amended to
11 read:

12 817.49 False reports of commission of crimes; penalty.—

13 (1) A person who ~~whoever~~ willfully imparts, conveys, or
14 causes to be imparted or conveyed to a ~~any~~ law enforcement
15 officer false information or reports concerning the alleged
16 commission of any crime under the laws of this state, knowing
17 such information or report to be false, when in that ~~when in that~~ no such
18 crime has had ~~has had~~ actually been committed, commits ~~shall upon~~
19 ~~conviction thereof be guilty of~~ a misdemeanor of the first
20 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

21 (2) (a) As used in this subsection, the term "public safety
22 agency" means a law enforcement agency, a professional or
23 volunteer fire department, an emergency medical service, an
24 ambulance service, or any other public entity that provides
25 first responder services to respond to crimes, to assist victims
26 of crimes, or to apprehend offenders.

27 (b) In addition to the criminal penalty for violating
28 subsection (1), if the offense results in:

29 1. A response by a federal, a state, a district, a

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30 municipal, or any other public safety agency to address the
31 reported crime, and the combined cost incurred by all responding
32 agencies exceeds \$1,000, the person may be sentenced to pay a
33 fine of up to \$5,000.

34 2. Great bodily harm, permanent disfigurement, or permanent
35 disability as a proximate result of lawful conduct arising out
36 of a response, the person may be sentenced to pay a fine of up
37 to \$7,500.

38 3. Death as a proximate result of lawful conduct arising
39 out of a response, the person may be sentenced to pay a fine of
40 up to \$10,000.

41 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.