

Second Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 18-0414.01 Michael Dohr x4347

SENATE BILL 18-068

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Cooke,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Van Winkle,

Senate Committees
Judiciary

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING CRIMINALIZING FALSE REPORTS.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Under current law, there is a crime of false reporting to authorities. The bill creates a crime of false reporting of an emergency by criminalizing an act of false reporting to authorities that includes a false report of an imminent threat to the safety of a person or persons by use of a deadly weapon. False reporting of an emergency is a class 1 misdemeanor, but it can be a felony depending on the harm caused by the false report. For purposes of the crime of false reporting to authorities and false reporting of an emergency, the defendant may be tried in the county

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

where the defendant made the report, the county where the false report was communicated to law enforcement, or the county where law enforcement responded to the false report.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 18-8-111 as
3 follows:

4 **18-8-111. False reporting to authorities - false reporting of an**
5 **emergency - definition.** (1) (a) A person commits false reporting to
6 authorities if:

7 ~~(a)~~ (I) He or she knowingly:

8 ~~(A)~~ (A) Causes by any means, including but not limited to
9 activation, a false alarm of fire or other emergency or a false emergency
10 exit alarm to sound or to be transmitted to or within an official or
11 volunteer fire department, ambulance service, law enforcement agency,
12 or any other government agency which deals with emergencies involving
13 danger to life or property; or

14 ~~(B)~~ (B) Prevents by any means, including but not limited to
15 deactivation, a legitimate fire alarm, emergency exit alarm, or other
16 emergency alarm from sounding or from being transmitted to or within
17 an official or volunteer fire department, ambulance service, law
18 enforcement agency, or any other government agency that deals with
19 emergencies involving danger to life or property; or

20 ~~(II)~~ (II) He OR SHE makes a report or knowingly causes the
21 transmission of a report to law enforcement authorities of a crime or other
22 incident within their official concern when he OR SHE knows that it did
23 not occur; or

24 ~~(III)~~ (III) He or she makes a report or knowingly causes the

1 transmission of a report to law enforcement authorities pretending to
2 furnish information relating to an offense or other incident within their
3 official concern when he or she knows that he or she has no such
4 information or knows that the information is false; or

5 ~~(d)~~ (IV) He or she knowingly provides false identifying
6 information to law enforcement authorities.

7 ~~(2)~~ (b) False reporting to authorities is a class 3 misdemeanor;
8 except that, if it is committed in violation of ~~paragraph (a) of subsection~~
9 ~~(1)~~ SUBSECTION (1)(a)(I) of this section and committed during the
10 commission of another criminal offense, it is a class 2 misdemeanor.

11 ~~(3)~~ (c) For purposes of this section, "identifying information"
12 means a person's name, address, birth date, social security number, or
13 driver's license or Colorado identification number.

14 (2) (a) A PERSON COMMITS FALSE REPORTING OF AN EMERGENCY
15 IF HE OR SHE COMMITS AN ACT IN VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS
16 SECTION THAT INCLUDES A FALSE REPORT OF AN IMMINENT THREAT TO THE
17 SAFETY OF A PERSON OR PERSONS BY USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON.

18 (b) (I) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION
19 (2)(b), FALSE REPORTING OF AN EMERGENCY IS A CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR.

20 (II) FALSE REPORTING OF AN EMERGENCY IS A CLASS 6 FELONY IF:

21 (A) THE THREAT CAUSES THE OCCUPANTS OF A BUILDING, PLACE
22 OF ASSEMBLY, OR FACILITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO BE DIVERTED
23 FROM THEIR NORMAL OR CUSTOMARY OPERATIONS; OR

24 (B) THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE RESULTS IN BODILY INJURY OF
25 ANOTHER PERSON.

26 (III) FALSE REPORTING OF AN EMERGENCY IS A CLASS 4 FELONY IF
27 THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE RESULTS IN SERIOUS BODILY INJURY OF

1 ANOTHER PERSON.

2 (IV) FALSE REPORTING OF AN EMERGENCY IS A CLASS 3 FELONY IF
3 THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE RESULTS IN THE DEATH OF ANOTHER PERSON.

4 (c) UPON A CONVICTION PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2), IN
5 ADDITION TO ANY OTHER SENTENCE IMPOSED OR RESTITUTION ORDERED,
6 THE COURT SHALL SENTENCE THE DEFENDANT TO PAY RESTITUTION IN AN
7 AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE COST OF ANY EMERGENCY RESPONSE OR
8 EVACUATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO FIRE AND POLICE RESPONSE,
9 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE OR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE,
10 AND TRANSPORTATION OF ANY INDIVIDUAL FROM THE BUILDING, PLACE OF
11 ASSEMBLY, OR FACILITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

12 (d) IT IS NOT A DEFENSE TO A PROSECUTION PURSUANT TO THIS
13 SUBSECTION (2) THAT THE DEFENDANT OR ANOTHER PERSON DID NOT
14 HAVE THE INTENT OR CAPABILITY OF COMMITTING THE THREATENED OR
15 REPORTED ACT.

16 (3) FOR PURPOSES OF SUBSECTIONS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SECTION,
17 THE OFFENSE IS COMMITTED AND THE DEFENDANT MAY BE TRIED IN THE
18 COUNTY WHERE THE DEFENDANT MADE THE REPORT, THE COUNTY WHERE
19 THE FALSE REPORT WAS COMMUNICATED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT, OR THE
20 COUNTY WHERE LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONDED TO THE FALSE REPORT.

21 (4) A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT PRECLUDE A
22 CONVICTION FOR A VIOLATION OF ANY OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

23 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-8-802, **amend** (2)
24 as follows:

25 **18-8-802. Duty to report use of force by peace officers.**

26 (2) Any peace officer who knowingly makes a materially false statement,
27 which the officer does not believe to be true, in any report made pursuant

1 to subsection (1) of this section commits false reporting to authorities
2 pursuant to section 18-8-111 ~~(1)(c)~~ (1)(a)(III).

3 **SECTION 3. Potential appropriation.** Pursuant to section
4 2-2-703, C.R.S., any bill that results in a net increase in periods of
5 imprisonment in state correctional facilities must include an appropriation
6 of money that is sufficient to cover any increased capital construction, any
7 operational costs, and increased parole costs that are the result of the bill
8 for the department of corrections in each of the first five years following
9 the effective date of the bill. Because this act may increase periods of
10 imprisonment, this act may require a five-year appropriation.

11 **SECTION 4. Effective date - applicability.** This act takes effect
12 July 1, 2018, and applies to offenses committed on or after said date.

13 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
14 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
15 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.