

HB697 • Virginia

Synthetic media; use in furtherance of crimes involving fraud, etc., report.

In Committee

Risk: High

Comprehensive

Last Action (Feb 19, 2024): Continued to 2025 in Courts of Justice (11-Y 2-N)

Summary

The bill criminalizes the use of synthetic media for fraud, making it a Class 1 misdemeanor, and allows civil actions for damages by affected individuals. A work group must report findings by the 2025 Regular Session.

Business Impact

If you use synthetic media in Virginia, you must ensure it is not used for fraudulent purposes or face criminal charges and civil lawsuits.

Key Provisions

- Criminalizes the use of synthetic media for fraud as a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- Allows individuals depicted in synthetic media to sue for damages.
- Defines synthetic media and its implications for defamation laws.
- Establishes a work group to study enforcement of synthetic media laws, including specific representatives, with a report due by the 2025 Regular Session.
- Penalties for misuse are separate from those for the primary criminal offense.
- Maintains protections under federal law for interactive computer services.

Compliance Checklist

- Ensure synthetic media is not used for fraudulent purposes. | Who: Businesses and individuals using synthetic media. | Penalty: Class 1 misdemeanor and potential civil liability.
- Prepare for potential civil actions from individuals depicted in synthetic media. | Who: Businesses and individuals creating or using synthetic media. | Penalty: Liability for actual damages and attorney fees.

Industries Affected

Media

Technology

Entertainment

Law Enforcement

Topics

AI Deepfakes

AI in Government

Bill Sponsors

Name	Party	Role
Michelle Maldonado	D	Sponsor
Irene Shin	D	Sponsor
Bonita Anthony	D	Sponsor
Nadarius Clark	D	Sponsor
Rozia Henson	D	Sponsor

Roll Call Votes

Date	Description	Yea	Nay	Result
2024-02-19	Senate: Continued to 2025 in Courts of Justice (11)	11	2	Passed
2024-02-08	House: VOTE: Block Vote Passage (98-Y 0-N)	98	0	Passed
2024-02-02	House: Reported from Courts of Justice with substi	21	0	Passed
2024-01-31	House: Subcommittee recommends reporting with subs	8	0	Passed

Amendments

- Substitute for HB697 Courts of Justice, Criminal — 2024-01-31 (Not Adopted)
- Substitute for HB697 Courts of Justice, Criminal — 2024-01-31 (Adopted)

Related Bills

- SB571 (VA)

Official Source

<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+sum+HB697>

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