

HB2124 • Virginia

Synthetic digital content; definition, penalty, report, effective clause.

Passed Both Chambers

Risk: High

Comprehensive

Effective: Jan 01, 2026 | Last Action (Mar 24, 2025): Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0398)

Summary

The bill criminalizes the use of synthetic digital content for fraud, allowing civil actions for damages and establishing a work group for further study, with provisions requiring reenactment by 2026.

Business Impact

If you use synthetic digital content in Virginia, you must ensure it is not used for fraudulent purposes or face a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Key Provisions

- Defines 'synthetic digital content' as digital representations that falsely depict individuals.
- Criminalizes the use of synthetic digital content for committing fraud as a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- Allows individuals depicted in synthetic digital content to seek civil damages.
- Establishes a work group to study enforcement of laws related to synthetic digital content, with meetings to be completed by November 1, 2025.
- Prohibits limiting protections under 47 U.S.C. a7 230 for interactive computer services.
- Requires recommendations to be reported by the first day of the 2026 Regular Session.
- Provisions of the first enactment will not become effective unless reenacted by the 2026 Session of the General Assembly.

Compliance Checklist

- Ensure synthetic digital content is not used for fraudulent purposes. | Who: All individuals and entities creating or using synthetic digital content. | Penalty: Class 1 misdemeanor for violations.
- Prepare for potential civil actions from individuals depicted in synthetic content. | Who: Creators and distributors of synthetic digital content. | Penalty: Liability for actual damages and attorney fees.

Industries Affected

Media

Technology

Entertainment

Law Enforcement

Topics

AI Deepfakes

Bill Sponsors

Name	Party	Role
Michelle Maldonado	D	Sponsor
Elizabeth Bennett-Parker	D	Sponsor
Jackie Glass	D	Sponsor
Irene Shin	D	Sponsor

Roll Call Votes

Date	Description	Yea	Nay	Result
2025-02-14	Senate Amendment agreed to by House (Y-88 N-7 A-0)	88	7	Passed
2025-02-12	Passed Senate with amendment (39-Y 0-N)	39	0	Passed
2025-02-11	Constitutional reading dispensed (on 2nd reading)	40	0	Passed
2025-02-10	Reported from Courts of Justice with amendment (15)	15	0	Passed
2025-01-31	Read third time and passed House (87-Y 9-N)	87	9	Passed
2025-01-27	Reported from Communications, Technology and Innov	20	2	Passed
2025-01-22	Subcommittee recommends reporting (9-Y 1-N)	9	1	Passed

Amendments

- Courts of Justice Amendment — 0000-00-00 (Not Adopted)
- Senate Amendment — 0000-00-00 (Not Adopted)

Related Bills

- SB1053 (VA)

Official Source

<https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20251/HB2124>

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