

# SB571 • Virginia

Synthetic media; expands applicability of provisions related to defamation, etc., penalty.

Introduced

Risk: Medium

Amendment

Last Action (Nov 19, 2024): Left in Courts of Justice

## Summary

SB571 expands defamation laws to include synthetic media, making misuse for fraud a Class 1 misdemeanor and allowing civil actions. The bill also mandates a study on enforcement.

## Business Impact

If you create synthetic media, ensure it's not used for fraud to avoid legal penalties.

## Key Provisions

- Expands defamation laws to include synthetic media.
- Classifies the creation or use of deceptive media for fraud as a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- Allows individuals depicted in deceptive media to file civil actions for damages.
- Creates a rebuttable presumption for deceptive media used in fraud.
- Directs the Attorney General to study enforcement of laws related to deceptive media.

## Compliance Checklist

- Ensure that any synthetic media created or used is not deceptive. | Who: Businesses and individuals creating or using synthetic media. | Penalty: Class 1 misdemeanor for violations.
- Be prepared to defend against claims of deceptive media use. | Who: Individuals and businesses involved in media production. | Penalty: Potential civil liability for damages.

## Industries Affected

Technology

Advertising

Media Production

# Topics

AI Deepfakes

## Bill Sponsors

Name	Party	Role
Bill R. DeSteph, Jr.		Primary
Siobhan S. Dunnavant		Primary
Joseph D. Morrissey		Cosponsor
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Jennifer B. Boysko	Democratic	Cosponsor
Adam P. Ebbin		Primary
Jennifer B. Boysko	Democratic	Cosponsor
Glen H. Sturtevant, Jr.		Primary

## Roll Call Votes

Date	Description	Yea	Nay	Result
2024-02-12	Continued to 2025 in Courts of Justice (14-Y 0-N)	14	0	Passed
2024-02-12	S Continued to 2025 in Judiciary	14	0	Passed

## Related Bills

- HB697 (VA)

## Official Source

<https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/SB571/2025>

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