

# SB1053 • Virginia

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

Passed Both Chambers

Risk: High

Comprehensive

Last Action (Mar 24, 2025): Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0407)

## 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.

## Business Impact

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

## Key Provisions

- Defines 'synthetic digital content' as digital media that falsely depicts individuals.
- Establishes penalties for using synthetic digital content in fraudulent activities as a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- Allows individuals depicted in synthetic digital content to file civil suits for damages.
- Mandates the Attorney General to form a work group to study enforcement of laws regarding synthetic digital content.
- Provisions do not take effect 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 businesses using synthetic digital content. | Penalty: Class 1 misdemeanor for violations.
- Prepare for potential civil actions from individuals depicted in synthetic digital content. | Who: Content creators and distributors. | Penalty: Liability for actual damages and attorney fees.

## Industries Affected

Media

Technology

Entertainment

Law Enforcement

## Topics

AI Deepfakes

## Bill Sponsors

Name	Party	Role
Adam Ebbin	D	Sponsor

## Roll Call Votes

Date	Description	Yea	Nay	Result
2025-02-13	Passed House (89-Y 8-N)	89	8	Passed
2025-02-10	Reported from Courts of Justice (22-Y 0-N)	22	0	Passed
2025-02-05	Subcommittee recommends reporting with substitute	7	1	Passed
2025-01-23	Engrossment reconsidered by Senate	39	0	Passed
2025-01-23	Constitutional reading dispensed (on 3rd reading)	39	0	Passed
2025-01-23	Passed Senate	39	0	Passed
2025-01-21	Constitutional reading dispensed (on 1st reading)	40	0	Passed
2025-01-20	Reported from Courts of Justice with amendment (15	15	0	Passed

## Amendments

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

## Related Bills

- HB2124 (VA)

## Official Source

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<https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20251/SB1053>

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