



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 578**

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 483

*Senate, April 9, 2026*

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. WINFIELD of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CRIME OF DIGITAL FORGERY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of  
2 digital forgery when such person, with intent to cause financial injury  
3 to another person, creates and disseminates a visual representation or  
4 audio recording that such person knows or should have known is a  
5 digitally forged likeness.

6 (b) For purposes of this section:

7 (1) "Disseminate" means to sell, give, provide, lend, trade, mail,  
8 deliver, transfer, publish, distribute, circulate, present, exhibit, advertise  
9 or otherwise offer; and

10 (2) "Digitally forged likeness" means any photograph, film, videotape  
11 or other visual representation of a person or an audio recording of a  
12 person's voice that (A) is (i) not wholly recorded by a camera or an audio  
13 recorder, or (ii) either partially or wholly generated by a computer

14 system, (B) depicts, and is virtually indistinguishable from what a  
15 reasonable person would believe is the actual depiction of an  
16 identifiable person's image or voice, and (C) is created without the  
17 consent of the person whose image or voice is depicted.

18 (c) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to  
19 any visual representation or audio recording created or disseminated by  
20 a law enforcement officer while in the performance of such law  
21 enforcement officer's official duties.

22 (d) Digital forgery is a (1) class A misdemeanor, or (2) class E felony  
23 if a person violated subsection (a) of this section as part of a scheme  
24 initiated by or participated in by such person.

25 (e) In any prosecution for an offense under this section, it shall be an  
26 affirmative defense that the defendant took reasonable action to place  
27 viewers or listeners of a digitally forged likeness on notice that such  
28 visual representation or audio recording is a digitally forged likeness.

29 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose liability on the  
30 provider of an interactive computer service, as defined in 47 USC 230,  
31 an information service, as defined in 47 USC 153, or a  
32 telecommunications service, as defined in section 16-247a of the general  
33 statutes, for the creation of content at the request of another person or  
34 the dissemination of content provided by another person, provided  
35 such provider did not know that such content was being created or  
36 disseminated in violation of subsection (a) of this section.

|   |                 |             |
|---|-----------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |                 |             |
| Section 1   | October 1, 2026 | New section |

**JUD**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

| Agency Affected                               | Fund-Effect                 | FY 27 \$ | FY 28 \$ |
|---|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| Correction, Dept.; Judicial Dept. (Probation) | GF - Potential Cost         | Minimal  | Minimal  |
| Resources of the General Fund                 | GF - Potential Revenue Gain | Minimal  | Minimal  |

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill creates a new crime of digital forgery, punishable as a class A misdemeanor or class E felony, which results in a potential cost to the Department of Correction and the Judicial Department for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines. On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300<sup>1</sup> while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$600<sup>2</sup> each year for adults and \$450 each year for juveniles.

**The Out Years**

<sup>1</sup> Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.) This does not include a change in staffing costs or utility expenses because these expenses would only be realized if a unit or facility opened.

<sup>2</sup> Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of offenses and fines collected.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 483*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CRIME OF DIGITAL FORGERY.*****SUMMARY**

This bill creates a new crime of digital forgery, which is when someone, intending to financially injure someone else, makes and disseminates a visual representation or audio recording that he or she knows or should have known is a digitally forged likeness.

Under the bill, a “digitally forged likeness” is visual representation (such a photo, film, or videotape) or an audio recording, created without consent from the person whose image or voice is included, that is (1) not entirely recorded by a camera or audio recorder or (2) generated, at least in part, by a computer system. It appears the same as what a reasonable person would think is the actual image or sound of the person involved.

The bill makes committing digital forgery generally a class A misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to three months in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both. It is a class E felony, however, to commit it as part of a scheme, either as the initiator or as a participant. A class E felony is punishable by up to three years in prison, a fine of up to \$3,500, or both.

The bill exempts representations or recordings created or disseminated by law enforcement as part of official duties. It also gives a defendant to this crime an affirmative defense that he or she took reasonable steps to inform viewers or listeners that the representation or recording is a digitally forged likeness. (In general, an affirmative defense allows a defendant to introduce evidence, which, if found to be credible, will negate the defendant’s liability, even if the defendant committed the alleged acts.)

Lastly, the bill specifies that it does not make interactive computer or telecommunication services providers liable for creating content at someone's request or disseminating content from someone unless they knew that doing so violated the bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 0 (03/23/2026)