

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 26-119—sSB 483

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CRIME OF DIGITAL DEFRAUDING

SUMMARY: This act makes someone guilty of larceny if they, with intent to financially injure someone else, make and disseminate a visual representation or audio recording that they know or should have known is a digitally forged likeness. The act refers to this form of larceny as “digital defrauding.” By law, the penalty for larceny depends on the value of the property taken, generally ranging from a class C misdemeanor when the property value is up to \$500, to a class B felony when the property value exceeds \$20,000 (see [Table on Penalties](#)).

Under the act, a “digitally forged likeness” is visual representation (like 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.

Under the act, a defendant to this larceny crime has an affirmative defense if they 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 act specifies that it does not make interactive computer, information, 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 act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026