

HB 2061 -- FALSE EMERGENCY RESPONSES

SPONSOR: Kidd

This bill creates the offense of causing a false emergency response, and a person commits the offense when he or she, with the intent to cause an emergency response by any law enforcement agency in the absence of circumstances requiring such a response, knowingly communicates false or misleading information indicating that conduct has taken, is taking, or will take place that may reasonably be believed to constitute a violation of any state or federal criminal law or believed to endanger public health or safety.

The offense of causing a false emergency response shall be: a class C misdemeanor if no emergency response results; a class B misdemeanor if an emergency response results; a class E felony if serious bodily injury results; and a class D felony if death results.

While imposing a sentence on a person convicted of this offense, the court shall order the person to reimburse any party for the expenses of an emergency response caused by the person's conduct. An order of reimbursement shall be treated as a civil judgment for the purposes of enforcement. Finally, irrespective of any criminal prosecution or result thereof, any person incurring bodily or loss to property as a result of a false emergency response shall have a civil action to secure an injunction, damages, or other appropriate relief in law or equity against any and all who violate the section.