

STATE OF NEW YORK

6218

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 15, 2021

Introduced by Sen. THOMAS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to falsely reporting an incident and falsifying business records by law enforcement officers

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 240.60 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 528
2 of the laws of 1995, subdivision 5 as added by chapter 561 of the laws
3 of 1999, subdivision 6 and the closing paragraph as amended by chapter
4 301 of the laws of 2001, is amended to read as follows:

5 § 240.60 Falsely reporting an incident in the first degree.

6 A person is guilty of falsely reporting an incident in the first
7 degree when he or she:

8 1. commits the crime of falsely reporting an incident in the second
9 degree as defined in section 240.55 of this article, and has previously
10 been convicted of that crime; or

11 2. commits the crime of falsely reporting an incident in the third
12 degree as defined in subdivisions one and two of section 240.50 of this
13 article or falsely reporting an incident in the second degree as defined
14 in subdivisions one and two of section 240.55 of this article and another
15 person who is an employee or member of any official or quasi-official
16 agency having the function of dealing with emergencies involving danger
17 to life or property; or who is a volunteer firefighter with a fire
18 department, fire company, or any unit thereof as defined in the volun-
19 teer firefighters' benefit law; or who is a volunteer ambulance worker
20 with a volunteer ambulance corporation or any unit thereof as defined in
21 the volunteer ambulance workers' benefit law suffers serious physical
22 injury or is killed in the performance of his or her official duties in
23 traveling to or working at or returning to a firehouse, police station,
24 quarters or other base facility from the location identified in such
25 report; or

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 3. commits the crime of falsely reporting an incident in the third
2 degree as defined in subdivisions one and two of section 240.50 of this
3 article or falsely reporting an incident in the second degree as defined
4 in subdivisions one and two of section 240.55 of this article and another
5 person suffers serious physical injury or is killed as a result of
6 any vehicular or other accident involving any emergency vehicle which is
7 responding to, operating at, or returning from the location identified
8 in such report. [4+] An emergency vehicle as referred to in this subdivi-
9 sion [~~three of this section~~] shall include any vehicle operated by any
10 employee or member of any official or quasi-official agency having the
11 function of dealing with emergencies involving danger to life or proper-
12 ty and shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, an emergency
13 vehicle which is operated by a volunteer firefighter with a fire depart-
14 ment, fire company, or any unit thereof as defined in the volunteer
15 firefighters' benefit law; or by a volunteer ambulance worker with a
16 volunteer ambulance corporation, or any unit thereof as defined in the
17 volunteer ambulance workers' benefit law[+]; or

18 [~~5+~~] 4. Knowing the information reported, conveyed or circulated to be
19 false or baseless and under circumstances in which it is likely public
20 alarm or inconvenience will result, he or she initiates or circulates a
21 report or warning of an alleged occurrence or an impending occurrence of
22 a fire, an explosion, or the release of a hazardous substance upon
23 school grounds and it is likely that persons are present on said
24 grounds[+]; or

25 [~~6+~~] 5. Knowing the information reported, conveyed or circulated to be
26 false or baseless and under circumstances in which it is likely public
27 alarm or inconvenience will result, he or she initiates or circulates a
28 report or warning of an alleged occurrence or impending occurrence of a
29 fire, explosion or the release of a hazardous substance in or upon a
30 sports stadium or arena, mass transportation facility, enclosed shopping
31 mall, any public building or any public place, and it is likely that
32 persons are present. For purposes of this subdivision, the terms "sports
33 stadium or arena, mass transportation facility or enclosed shopping
34 mall" shall have their natural meaning and the term "public building"
35 shall have the meaning set forth in section four hundred one of the
36 executive law[+]; or

37 6. Being a law enforcement officer, he or she commits the crime of
38 falsely reporting an incident in the third degree as defined in subdivi-
39 sions one and two of section 240.50 of this article, knowing the infor-
40 mation reported to be false or baseless.

41 Falsely reporting an incident in the first degree is a class D felony.

42 § 2. Section 175.10 of the penal law is amended to read as follows:

43 § 175.10 Falsifying business records in the first degree.

44 A person is guilty of falsifying business records in the first degree
45 when:

46 1. he or she commits the crime of falsifying business records in the
47 second degree, and when his or her intent to defraud includes an intent
48 to commit another crime or to aid or conceal the commission thereof; or

49 2. being a law enforcement official, he or she commits the crime of
50 falsifying business records in the second degree.

51 Falsifying business records in the first degree is a class E felony.

52 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.