

STATE OF NEW YORK

1893

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 16, 2021

Introduced by Sen. RITCHIE -- 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 incidents in an attempt to bring about the dispatch of a large number of police officers to a particular address or location

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

1 Section 1. Section 240.55 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 477
2 of the laws of 1989, subdivisions 1 and 2 as amended by chapter 561 of
3 the laws of 1999, subdivision 3 as renumbered by chapter 302 of the laws
4 of 2001, and subdivision 3 as added and the closing paragraph as amended
5 by chapter 301 of the laws of 2001, is amended to read as follows:

6 § 240.55 Falsely reporting an incident in the second degree.

7 A person is guilty of falsely reporting an incident in the second
8 degree when, knowing the information reported, conveyed or circulated to
9 be false or baseless, he or she:

10 1. Initiates or circulates a false report or warning of an alleged
11 occurrence or impending occurrence of a fire, explosion, or the release
12 of a hazardous substance or in an attempt to bring about the dispatch of
13 a large number of police officers to a particular address or location
14 under circumstances in which it is not unlikely that public alarm or
15 inconvenience will result;

16 2. Reports, by word or action, to any official or quasi-official agen-
17 cy or organization having the function of dealing with emergencies
18 involving danger to life or property, an alleged occurrence or impending
19 occurrence of a fire, explosion, or the release of a hazardous substance
20 which did not in fact occur or does not in fact exist or an alleged
21 occurrence or impending occurrence of an incident which did not in fact
22 exist in an attempt to bring about the dispatch of a large number of
23 police officers to a particular address or location; or

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

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1 3. Knowing the information reported, conveyed or circulated to be
2 false or baseless and under circumstances in which it is likely public
3 alarm or inconvenience will result, he or she initiates or circulates a
4 report or warning of an alleged occurrence or an impending occurrence of
5 a fire, an explosion, or the release of a hazardous substance upon any
6 private premises or he or she initiates or circulates a report or warn-
7 ing of an alleged occurrence or an impending occurrence of an incident
8 in an attempt to bring about the dispatch of a large number of police
9 officers to a particular address or location.

10 Falsely reporting an incident in the second degree is a class E felo-
11 ny.

12 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
13 have become a law.