STATE OF NEW YORK

3204

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 24, 2025

Introduced by Sens. KRUEGER, LIU, WEBB -- 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 creating the offense of defrauding the government in the first degree and expanding the definition of conspiracy in the fourth degree; and to amend the tax law and the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to expanding the definition of tax fraud acts

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

Section 1. The penal law is amended by adding a new section 195.22 to read as follows:

§ 195.22 Defrauding the government in the first degree.

A person is guilty of defrauding the government in the first degree when, such person knowingly manufactures, sells, installs, or uses, or attempts to manufacture, sell, install or use, an automated sales suppression device for the purpose of enabling or assisting any person to evade any tax owed to the state or a political subdivision of the state or any instrumentality of the state.

For purposes of this section an "automated sales suppression device" is a software program that falsifies electronic records for the purpose of evading any tax owed to the state, or any political subdivision of the state, or any instrumentality of the state. An "automated sales suppression device" includes any software program that is (a) maintained on a USB memory stick or thumb drive, zapper, removable compact disc or other external device, or (b) embedded in the operating system as "phantom ware," or (c) otherwise accessed remotely.

Defrauding the government in the first degree is a class D felony.

§ 2. Section 105.10 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 489 of the laws of 2000, is amended to read as follows:

§ 105.10 Conspiracy in the fourth degree.

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

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A person is guilty of conspiracy in the fourth degree when, with intent that conduct constituting:

1. a class B or class C felony be performed, [~~he or she~~] **the person** agrees with one or more persons to engage in or cause the performance of such conduct; or

2. a felony be performed, [~~he or she~~] **the person**, being over eighteen years of age, agrees with one or more persons under sixteen years of age to engage in or cause the performance of such conduct; or

3. the felony of money laundering in the third degree as defined in section 470.10 of this chapter, be performed, [~~he or she~~] **the person** agrees with one or more persons to engage in or cause the performance of such conduct[~~.~~]**; or**

4. the felony of defrauding the government in the first degree as defined in section 195.22 of this part, be performed, the person agrees with one or more persons to engage in or cause the performance of such conduct.

Conspiracy in the fourth degree is a class E felony.

§ 3. Paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of subdivision (a) of section 1801 of the tax law, paragraph 7 as added by section 15 of subpart I of part V1 of chapter 57 of the laws of 2009 and paragraph 8 as amended and paragraph 9 as added by section 7 of part UU of chapter 56 of the laws of 2023, are amended to read as follows:

(7) with intent to evade any tax fails to pay that tax; [~~or~~]

(8) issues an exemption certificate, interdistributor sales certificate, resale certificate, or any other document capable of evidencing a claim that taxes do not apply to a transaction, which [~~he or she~~] **the person** does not believe to be true and correct as to any material matter, which omits any material information, or which is false, fraudulent, or counterfeit; [~~or~~]

(9) **uses an automated sales suppression device as described in section 195.22 of the penal law; or**

(10) (a) knowingly fails to collect or remit any taxes imposed by section four hundred ninety-three of this chapter on the sale of any adult-use cannabis product; or (b) knowingly possesses for sale, as such term is defined in section four hundred ninety-two of this chapter, any such product on which the tax required to be paid under subdivision (a) of such section has not been paid.

§ 4. Paragraphs 7 and 8 of subdivision (a) of section 11-4002 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as added by chapter 201 of the laws of 2009, are amended and a new paragraph 9 is added to read as follows:

(7) with intent to evade any tax imposed under any designated chapter of this title, fails to pay that tax; [~~or~~]

(8) issues an exemption certificate, interdistributor sales certificate, resale certificate, or any other document capable of evidencing a claim that taxes imposed under a designated chapter of this title do not apply to a transaction, which [~~he or she~~] **the person** does not believe to be true and correct as to any material matter, which omits any material information, or which is false, fraudulent, or counterfeit[~~.~~]**; or**

(9) uses an automated sales suppression device as described in section 195.22 of the penal law.

§ 5. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeeding the date upon which it shall have become a law.