

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1689

---

As Amended by the Senate

**Title:** An act relating to impersonation of a law enforcement officer.

**Brief Description:** Making it a misdemeanor to impersonate a law enforcement officer.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Chappell, Springer, Appelwick, Riley, Campbell, Brough, Basich, J. Kohl and Johanson.

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Judiciary, March 2, 1993, DP;  
Passed House, March 11, 1993, 98-0;  
Amended by Senate.

---

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 17 members:  
Representatives Appelwick, Chair; Ludwig, Vice Chair;  
Padden, Ranking Minority Member; Ballasiotes, Assistant  
Ranking Minority Member; Campbell; Chappell; Forner;  
Johanson; Locke; Long; Mastin; H. Myers; Riley; Schmidt;  
Scott; Tate; and Wineberry.

**Staff:** Bill Perry (786-7123).

**Background:** A person can commit the crime of criminal impersonation in either of two ways. First, the crime may be committed by assuming a false identity and acting with an unlawful purpose. Second, the crime may be committed by pretending to be a representative of another person and acting with an unlawful purpose. The crime is a gross misdemeanor.

**Summary of Bill:** The crime of criminal impersonation is amended to include two degrees. The existing crime is designated first-degree criminal impersonation.

The new crime of second-degree criminal impersonation is created. The crime is committed by claiming to be, or creating the impression that one is, a law enforcement officer and, under circumstances not amounting to the first-degree crime, acting with the intent to convey the impression that one is acting in an official capacity.

The second-degree crime is a misdemeanor.

**EFFECT OF SENATE AMENDMENT(S):** The Senate amendment adds as an element of the crime the requirement that "a reasonable person would believe the person is a law enforcement officer." That is, in order for an impersonation to be criminal, it must be convincing enough that a reasonable person would believe it.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** None.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Witnesses:** None.

**VOTE ON FINAL PASSAGE:**

Yeas 98