



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Fifth Legislature, Second Regular Session

AMENDED
FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1001

~~technical correction; tax judges; qualifications~~
(NOW: extortion; social media; messages)

Purpose

Specifies that a person commits *theft by extortion* by knowingly obtaining or seeking to obtain property or services by means of threat to expose a secret or an asserted fact in the future through a social media message or in any other manner, unless the threat is based on a plausible claim of right to the property or services obtained or sought to be obtained.

Background

A person commits theft by extortion by knowingly obtaining or seeking to obtain property or services by means of threatening to: 1) cause physical injury or death to anyone; 2) cause property damage; 3) engage in other conduct constituting an offense; 4) accuse anyone of a crime or bringing criminal charges against anyone; 5) expose a secret or an asserted fact, whether true or false, tending to subject anyone to hatred, contempt or ridicule or to impair the person's credit or business; 6) take or withhold action as a public servant or causing a public servant to take or withhold action; 7) cause anyone to part with any property; or 8) take or withhold action regarding an alleged claim of easement or other right of access to an adjoining property under certain circumstances ([A.R.S. § 13-1804](#)).

Social media messages means forms of communication, including internet sites for social networking or blogging, through which users create a personal profile and participate in online communities to share information, ideas and personal messages ([A.R.S. § 16-901](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Specifies that a person commits *theft by extortion* by knowingly obtaining or seeking to obtain property or services by means of threat to expose a secret or an asserted fact in the future through a social media message or in any other manner, unless the threat is based on a plausible claim of right to the property or services obtained or sought to be obtained.
2. Makes a technical change.
3. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted by Committee

- Adopted the strike-everything amendment.

Amendments Adopted by the House of Representatives

- Exempts, from *theft by extortion*, a threat based on a plausible claim of right to the property or services obtained or sought to be obtained.

Senate Action

APPROP 2/22/22 DPA/SE 9-0-1
3rd Read 2/24/22 26-2-2

House Action

JUD 2/22/22 DP 6-4-0-0
3rd Read 4/27/22 31-27-2

Prepared by Senate Research

April 27, 2022

ZD/HW/sr