

ARIZONA STATE SENATE

Fifty-Sixth Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1078

fraudulent voice recordings

Purpose

Classifies using a voice recording of another person with intent to induce others into thinking the voice recording is the live voice of the person as criminal impersonation, subject to a class 5 felony.

Background

A person commits criminal impersonation by: 1) assuming a false identity with the intent to defraud another; 2) pretending to be a representative of some person or organization with the intent to defraud; or 3) pretending to be, or assuming a false identity of, an employee or a representative of some person or organization with the intent to induce another person to provide or allow access to property. Criminal impersonation is classified as a class 6 felony (<u>A.R.S.</u> § 13-2006).

A class 6 felony carries a presumptive prison sentence of 1 year for first time offenders and a fine of not more than \$150,000. A class 5 felony carries presumptive prison sentence of 1.5 years for first time offenders and a fine of not more than \$150,000 (A.R.S. §§ 13-702 and 13-801).

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

Provisions

- 1. Expands the criminal impersonation classification to include using a voice recording of another person with the intent to induce other persons into thinking that the voice recording is the live voice of the person and not a recording.
- 2. Classifies criminal impersonation by way of using a fraudulent voice recording as a class 5 felony.
- 3. Makes technical changes.
- 4. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research January 19, 2024 ZD/cs