

**SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-THIRD SESSION**

**S.F. No. 957**

(SENATE AUTHORS: LUCERO)

DATE  
01/30/2023

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Introduction and first reading  
Referred to Judiciary and Public Safety

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to public safety; expanding crime of unauthorized computer access to  
1.3 include accessing a computer without penetrating security system; amending  
1.4 Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 609.891.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 609.891, is amended to read:

1.7 **609.891 UNAUTHORIZED COMPUTER ACCESS.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Crime.** A person is guilty of unauthorized computer access if the person  
1.9 intentionally and without authorization attempts to or does:

1.10 (1) penetrate a computer security system or;

1.11 (2) penetrate an electronic terminal; or

1.12 (3) access an unsecured computer that contains personal data.

1.13 Subd. 2. **Felony.** (a) A person who violates subdivision 1, clause (1) or (2), in a manner  
1.14 that creates a grave risk of causing the death of a person is guilty of a felony and may be  
1.15 sentenced to imprisonment for not more than ten years or to payment of a fine of not more  
1.16 than \$20,000, or both.

1.17 (b) A person who is convicted of a second or subsequent gross misdemeanor violation  
1.18 of subdivision 1, clause (1) or (2), is guilty of a felony and may be sentenced under paragraph  
1.19 (a).

1.20 (c) A person who violates subdivision 1, clause (2), by accessing, or attempting to access,  
1.21 an electronic terminal through opening any panel or access door without authorization and

2.1 placing or attaching, or attempting to place or attach, an electronic device to capture, store,  
2.2 or communicate access device information is guilty of a felony.

2.3 Subd. 3. **Gross misdemeanor.** (a) A person who violates subdivision 1, clause (1) or  
2.4 (2), in a manner that creates a risk to public health and safety is guilty of a gross misdemeanor  
2.5 and may be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not more than one year or to payment  
2.6 of a fine of not more than \$3,000, or both.

2.7 (b) A person who violates subdivision 1, clause (1) or (2), in a manner that compromises  
2.8 the security of data that are protected under section 609.52, subdivision 2, paragraph (a),  
2.9 clause (8), or are not public data as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 8a, is guilty of a  
2.10 gross misdemeanor and may be sentenced under paragraph (a).

2.11 (c) A person who violates subdivision 1, clause (1) or (2), and gains access to personal  
2.12 data is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and may be sentenced under paragraph (a).

2.13 (d) A person who is convicted of a second or subsequent misdemeanor violation of  
2.14 subdivision 1, clause (1) or (2), within five years is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and may  
2.15 be sentenced under paragraph (a).

2.16 (e) A person who violates subdivision 1, clause (2), by accessing, or attempting to access,  
2.17 an electronic terminal through opening, or attempting to open, any panel or access door  
2.18 without authorization is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and may be sentenced under paragraph  
2.19 (a).

2.20 Subd. 4. **Misdemeanor.** A person who violates subdivision 1 is guilty of a misdemeanor  
2.21 and may be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not more than 90 days or to payment  
2.22 of a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both.

2.23 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2023, and applies to crimes  
2.24 committed on or after that date.