



**94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**State of Illinois**  
**2005 and 2006**  
**HB4121**

Introduced 10/6/2005, by Rep. Daniel J. Burke

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

720 ILCS 5/17-2

from Ch. 38, par. 17-2

Amends the Criminal Code of 1961 relating to false personation. Provides that it is unlawful for a person to falsely represent himself or herself as a Purple Heart recipient or to wear a Purple Heart medal that was not awarded to that person by the United States government. Provides that a violation is a petty offense for which the offender shall be fined at least \$100 but not exceeding \$200.

LRB094 14139 RLC 49038 b

1 AN ACT concerning criminal law.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Criminal Code of 1961 is amended by changing  
5 Section 17-2 as follows:

6 (720 ILCS 5/17-2) (from Ch. 38, par. 17-2)

7 Sec. 17-2. False personation; use of title; solicitation;  
8 certain entities.

9 (a) A person commits a false personation when he or she  
10 falsely represents himself or herself to be a member or  
11 representative of any veterans' or public safety personnel  
12 organization or a representative of any charitable  
13 organization, or when any person exhibits or uses in any manner  
14 any decal, badge or insignia of any charitable, public safety  
15 personnel, or veterans' organization when not authorized to do  
16 so by the charitable, public safety personnel, or veterans'  
17 organization. "Public safety personnel organization" has the  
18 meaning ascribed to that term in Section 1 of the Solicitation  
19 for Charity Act.

20 (a-5) A person commits a false personation when he or she  
21 falsely represents himself or herself to be a veteran in  
22 seeking employment or public office. In this subsection,  
23 "veteran" means a person who has served in the Armed Services  
24 or Reserved Forces of the United States.

25 (a-6) A person commits a false personation when he or she  
26 falsely represents himself or herself to be a Purple Heart  
27 recipient or wears a Purple Heart medal that was not awarded to  
28 that person by the United States government.

29 (b) No person shall use the words "Chicago Police,"  
30 "Chicago Police Department," "Chicago Patrolman," "Chicago  
31 Sergeant," "Chicago Lieutenant," "Chicago Peace Officer" or  
32 any other words to the same effect in the title of any

1 organization, magazine, or other publication without the  
2 express approval of the Chicago Police Board.

3 (b-5) No person shall use the words "Cook County Sheriff's  
4 Police" or "Cook County Sheriff" or any other words to the same  
5 effect in the title of any organization, magazine, or other  
6 publication without the express approval of the office of the  
7 Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board. The references to names and  
8 titles in this Section may not be construed as authorizing use  
9 of the names and titles of other organizations or public safety  
10 personnel organizations otherwise prohibited by this Section  
11 or the Solicitation for Charity Act.

12 (c) (Blank).

13 (c-1) No person may claim or represent that he or she is  
14 acting on behalf of any police department, chief of a police  
15 department, fire department, chief of a fire department,  
16 sheriff's department, or sheriff when soliciting financial  
17 contributions or selling or delivering or offering to sell or  
18 deliver any merchandise, goods, services, memberships, or  
19 advertisements unless the chief of the police department, fire  
20 department, and the corporate or municipal authority thereof,  
21 or the sheriff has first entered into a written agreement with  
22 the person or with an organization with which the person is  
23 affiliated and the agreement permits the activity.

24 (c-2) No person, when soliciting financial contributions  
25 or selling or delivering or offering to sell or deliver any  
26 merchandise, goods, services, memberships, or advertisements  
27 may claim or represent that he or she is representing or acting  
28 on behalf of any nongovernmental organization by any name which  
29 includes "officer", "peace officer", "police", "law  
30 enforcement", "trooper", "sheriff", "deputy", "deputy  
31 sheriff", "State police", or any other word or words which  
32 would reasonably be understood to imply that the organization  
33 is composed of law enforcement personnel unless the person is  
34 actually representing or acting on behalf of the  
35 nongovernmental organization, and the nongovernmental  
36 organization is controlled by and governed by a membership of

1 and represents a group or association of active duty peace  
2 officers, retired peace officers, or injured peace officers and  
3 before commencing the solicitation or the sale or the offers to  
4 sell any merchandise, goods, services, memberships, or  
5 advertisements, a written contract between the soliciting or  
6 selling person and the nongovernmental organization has been  
7 entered into.

8 (c-3) No person may solicit financial contributions or sell  
9 or deliver or offer to sell or deliver any merchandise, goods,  
10 services, memberships, or advertisements on behalf of a police,  
11 sheriff, or other law enforcement department unless that person  
12 is actually representing or acting on behalf of the department  
13 or governmental organization and has entered into a written  
14 contract with the police chief, or head of the law enforcement  
15 department, and the corporate or municipal authority thereof,  
16 or the sheriff, which specifies and states clearly and fully  
17 the purposes for which the proceeds of the solicitation,  
18 contribution, or sale will be used.

19 (c-4) No person, when soliciting financial contributions  
20 or selling or delivering or offering to sell or deliver any  
21 merchandise, goods, services, memberships, or advertisements,  
22 may claim or represent that he or she is representing or acting  
23 on behalf of any nongovernmental organization by any name which  
24 includes the term "fireman", "fire fighter", "paramedic", or  
25 any other word or words which would reasonably be understood to  
26 imply that the organization is composed of fire fighter or  
27 paramedic personnel unless the person is actually representing  
28 or acting on behalf of the nongovernmental organization, and  
29 the nongovernmental organization is controlled by and governed  
30 by a membership of and represents a group or association of  
31 active duty, retired, or injured fire fighters (for the  
32 purposes of this Section, "fire fighter" has the meaning  
33 ascribed to that term in Section 2 of the Illinois Fire  
34 Protection Training Act) or active duty, retired, or injured  
35 emergency medical technicians - ambulance, emergency medical  
36 technicians - intermediate, emergency medical technicians -

1 paramedic, ambulance drivers, or other medical assistance or  
2 first aid personnel, and before commencing the solicitation or  
3 the sale or delivery or the offers to sell or deliver any  
4 merchandise, goods, services, memberships, or advertisements,  
5 a written contract between the soliciting or selling person and  
6 the nongovernmental organization has been entered into.

7 (c-5) No person may solicit financial contributions or sell  
8 or deliver or offer to sell or deliver any merchandise, goods,  
9 services, memberships, or advertisements on behalf of a  
10 department or departments of fire fighters unless that person  
11 is actually representing or acting on behalf of the department  
12 or departments and has entered into a written contract with the  
13 department chief and corporate or municipal authority thereof  
14 which specifies and states clearly and fully the purposes for  
15 which the proceeds of the solicitation, contribution, or sale  
16 will be used.

17 (c-6) No person may claim or represent that he or she is an  
18 airman, airline employee, airport employee, or contractor at an  
19 airport in order to obtain the uniform, identification card,  
20 license, or other identification paraphernalia of an airman,  
21 airline employee, airport employee, or contractor at an  
22 airport.

23 (d) Sentence. False personation, unapproved use of a name  
24 or title, or solicitation in violation of subsection (a), (b),  
25 or (b-5) of this Section is a Class C misdemeanor. False  
26 personation in violation of subsections (a-5) and (c-6) is a  
27 Class A misdemeanor. False personation in violation of  
28 subsection (a-6) of this Section is a petty offense for which  
29 the offender shall be fined at least \$100 and not exceeding  
30 \$200. Engaging in any activity in violation of subsection  
31 (c-1), (c-2), (c-3), (c-4), or (c-5) of this Section is a Class  
32 4 felony.

33 (Source: P.A. 94-548, eff. 8-11-05.)