

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 2012 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; solicitation.

8 (a) False personation; solicitation.

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

21 (2) A person commits a false personation when he or she  
22 knowingly and falsely represents himself or herself to be a  
23 veteran in seeking employment or public office. In this

1 paragraph, "veteran" means a person who has served in the  
2 Armed Services or Reserve Forces of the United States.

3 (2.5) A person commits a false personation when he or  
4 she knowingly and falsely represents himself or herself to  
5 be:

6 (A) another actual person and does an act in such  
7 assumed character with intent to intimidate, threaten,  
8 injure, defraud, or to obtain a benefit from another;  
9 or

10 (B) a representative of an actual person or  
11 organization and does an act in such false capacity  
12 with intent to obtain a benefit or to injure or defraud  
13 another.

14 (3) No person shall knowingly use the words "Police",  
15 "Police Department", "Patrolman", "Sergeant",  
16 "Lieutenant", "Peace Officer", "Sheriff's Police",  
17 "Sheriff", "Officer", "Law Enforcement", "Trooper",  
18 "Deputy", "Deputy Sheriff", "State Police", or any other  
19 words to the same effect (i) in the title of any  
20 organization, magazine, or other publication without the  
21 express approval of the named public safety personnel  
22 organization's governing board or (ii) in combination with  
23 the name of any state, state agency, public university, or  
24 unit of local government without the express written  
25 authorization of that state, state agency, public  
26 university, or unit of local government.

1           (4) No person may knowingly claim or represent that he  
2           or she is acting on behalf of any public safety personnel  
3           organization when soliciting financial contributions or  
4           selling or delivering or offering to sell or deliver any  
5           merchandise, goods, services, memberships, or  
6           advertisements unless the chief of the police department,  
7           fire department, and the corporate or municipal authority  
8           thereof, or the sheriff has first entered into a written  
9           agreement with the person or with an organization with  
10          which the person is affiliated and the agreement permits  
11          the activity and specifies and states clearly and fully the  
12          purpose for which the proceeds of the solicitation,  
13          contribution, or sale will be used.

14          (5) No person, when soliciting financial contributions  
15          or selling or delivering or offering to sell or deliver any  
16          merchandise, goods, services, memberships, or  
17          advertisements may claim or represent that he or she is  
18          representing or acting on behalf of any nongovernmental  
19          organization by any name which includes "officer", "peace  
20          officer", "police", "law enforcement", "trooper",  
21          "sheriff", "deputy", "deputy sheriff", "State police", or  
22          any other word or words which would reasonably be  
23          understood to imply that the organization is composed of  
24          law enforcement personnel unless:

25                 (A) the person is actually representing or acting  
26                 on behalf of the nongovernmental organization;

1 (B) the nongovernmental organization is controlled  
2 by and governed by a membership of and represents a  
3 group or association of active duty peace officers,  
4 retired peace officers, or injured peace officers; and

5 (C) before commencing the solicitation or the sale  
6 or the offers to sell any merchandise, goods, services,  
7 memberships, or advertisements, a written contract  
8 between the soliciting or selling person and the  
9 nongovernmental organization, which specifies and  
10 states clearly and fully the purposes for which the  
11 proceeds of the solicitation, contribution, or sale  
12 will be used, has been entered into.

13 (6) No person, when soliciting financial contributions  
14 or selling or delivering or offering to sell or deliver any  
15 merchandise, goods, services, memberships, or  
16 advertisements, may knowingly claim or represent that he or  
17 she is representing or acting on behalf of any  
18 nongovernmental organization by any name which includes  
19 the term "fireman", "fire fighter", "paramedic", or any  
20 other word or words which would reasonably be understood to  
21 imply that the organization is composed of fire fighter or  
22 paramedic personnel unless:

23 (A) the person is actually representing or acting  
24 on behalf of the nongovernmental organization;

25 (B) the nongovernmental organization is controlled  
26 by and governed by a membership of and represents a

1 group or association of active duty, retired, or  
2 injured fire fighters (for the purposes of this  
3 Section, "fire fighter" has the meaning ascribed to  
4 that term in Section 2 of the Illinois Fire Protection  
5 Training Act) or active duty, retired, or injured  
6 emergency medical technicians - ambulance, emergency  
7 medical technicians - intermediate, emergency medical  
8 technicians - paramedic, ambulance drivers, or other  
9 medical assistance or first aid personnel; and

10 (C) before commencing the solicitation or the sale  
11 or delivery or the offers to sell or deliver any  
12 merchandise, goods, services, memberships, or  
13 advertisements, the soliciting or selling person and  
14 the nongovernmental organization have entered into a  
15 written contract that specifies and states clearly and  
16 fully the purposes for which the proceeds of the  
17 solicitation, contribution, or sale will be used.

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

24 (8) No person, firm, copartnership, or corporation  
25 (except corporations organized and doing business under  
26 the Pawnors Societies Act) shall knowingly use a name that

1 contains in it the words "Pawners' Society".

2 (b) False personation; public officials and employees. A  
3 person commits a false personation if he or she knowingly and  
4 falsely represents himself or herself to be any of the  
5 following:

6 (1) An attorney authorized to practice law for purposes  
7 of compensation or consideration. This paragraph (b)(1)  
8 does not apply to a person who unintentionally fails to pay  
9 attorney registration fees established by Supreme Court  
10 Rule.

11 (2) A public officer or a public employee or an  
12 official or employee of the federal government.

13 (2.3) A public officer, a public employee, or an  
14 official or employee of the federal government, and the  
15 false representation is made in furtherance of the  
16 commission of felony.

17 (2.7) A public officer or a public employee, and the  
18 false representation is for the purpose of effectuating  
19 identity theft as defined in Section 16-30 of this Code.

20 (3) A peace officer.

21 (4) A peace officer while carrying a deadly weapon.

22 (5) A peace officer in attempting or committing a  
23 felony.

24 (6) A peace officer in attempting or committing a  
25 forcible felony.

26 (7) The parent, legal guardian, or other relation of a

1 minor child to any public official, public employee, or  
2 elementary or secondary school employee or administrator.

3 (7.5) The legal guardian, including any representative  
4 of a State or public guardian, of a disabled person  
5 appointed under Article XIa of the Probate Act of 1975.

6 (8) A fire fighter.

7 (9) A fire fighter while carrying a deadly weapon.

8 (10) A fire fighter in attempting or committing a  
9 felony.

10 (11) An emergency management worker of any  
11 jurisdiction in this State.

12 (12) An emergency management worker of any  
13 jurisdiction in this State in attempting or committing a  
14 felony. For the purposes of this subsection (b), "emergency  
15 management worker" has the meaning provided under Section  
16 2-6.6 of this Code.

17 (b-5) The trier of fact may infer that a person falsely  
18 represents himself or herself to be a public officer or a  
19 public employee or an official or employee of the federal  
20 government if the person:

21 (1) wears or displays without authority any uniform,  
22 badge, insignia, or facsimile thereof by which a public  
23 officer or public employee or official or employee of the  
24 federal government is lawfully distinguished; or

25 (2) falsely expresses by word or action that he or she  
26 is a public officer or public employee or official or

1 employee of the federal government and is acting with  
2 approval or authority of a public agency or department.

3 (c) Fraudulent advertisement of a corporate name.

4 (1) A company, association, or individual commits  
5 fraudulent advertisement of a corporate name if he, she, or  
6 it, not being incorporated, puts forth a sign or  
7 advertisement and assumes, for the purpose of soliciting  
8 business, a corporate name.

9 (2) Nothing contained in this subsection (c) prohibits  
10 a corporation, company, association, or person from using a  
11 divisional designation or trade name in conjunction with  
12 its corporate name or assumed name under Section 4.05 of  
13 the Business Corporation Act of 1983 or, if it is a member  
14 of a partnership or joint venture, from doing partnership  
15 or joint venture business under the partnership or joint  
16 venture name. The name under which the joint venture or  
17 partnership does business may differ from the names of the  
18 members. Business may not be conducted or transacted under  
19 that joint venture or partnership name, however, unless all  
20 provisions of the Assumed Business Name Act have been  
21 complied with. Nothing in this subsection (c) permits a  
22 foreign corporation to do business in this State without  
23 complying with all Illinois laws regulating the doing of  
24 business by foreign corporations. No foreign corporation  
25 may conduct or transact business in this State as a member  
26 of a partnership or joint venture that violates any



1 Illinois law regulating or pertaining to the doing of  
2 business by foreign corporations in Illinois.

3 (3) The provisions of this subsection (c) do not apply  
4 to limited partnerships formed under the Revised Uniform  
5 Limited Partnership Act or under the Uniform Limited  
6 Partnership Act (2001).

7 (d) False law enforcement badges.

8 (1) A person commits false law enforcement badges if he  
9 or she knowingly produces, sells, or distributes a law  
10 enforcement badge without the express written consent of  
11 the law enforcement agency represented on the badge or, in  
12 case of a reorganized or defunct law enforcement agency,  
13 its successor law enforcement agency.

14 (2) It is a defense to false law enforcement badges  
15 that the law enforcement badge is used or is intended to be  
16 used exclusively: (i) as a memento or in a collection or  
17 exhibit; (ii) for decorative purposes; or (iii) for a  
18 dramatic presentation, such as a theatrical, film, or  
19 television production.

20 (e) False medals.

21 (1) A person commits a false personation if he or she  
22 knowingly and falsely represents himself or herself to be a  
23 recipient of, or wears on his or her person, any of the  
24 following medals if that medal was not awarded to that  
25 person by the United States Government, irrespective of  
26 branch of service: The Congressional Medal of Honor, The

1 Distinguished Service Cross, The Navy Cross, The Air Force  
2 Cross, The Silver Star, The Bronze Star, or the Purple  
3 Heart.

4 (2) It is a defense to a prosecution under paragraph  
5 (e)(1) that the medal is used, or is intended to be used,  
6 exclusively:

7 (A) for a dramatic presentation, such as a  
8 theatrical, film, or television production, or a  
9 historical re-enactment; or

10 (B) for a costume worn, or intended to be worn, by  
11 a person under 18 years of age.

12 (f) Sentence.

13 (1) A violation of paragraph (a)(8) is a petty offense  
14 subject to a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$100,  
15 and the person, firm, copartnership, or corporation  
16 commits an additional petty offense for each day he, she,  
17 or it continues to commit the violation. A violation of  
18 paragraph (c)(1) is a petty offense, and the company,  
19 association, or person commits an additional petty offense  
20 for each day he, she, or it continues to commit the  
21 violation. A violation of subsection (e) is a petty offense  
22 for which the offender shall be fined at least \$100 and not  
23 more than \$200.

24 (2) A violation of paragraph (a)(1), ~~or~~ (a)(3), or  
25 (b)(7.5) is a Class C misdemeanor.

26 (3) A violation of paragraph (a)(2), (a)(2.5), (a)(7),

1 (b) (2), or (b) (7) or subsection (d) is a Class A  
2 misdemeanor. A second or subsequent violation of  
3 subsection (d) is a Class 3 felony.

4 (4) A violation of paragraph (a) (4), (a) (5), (a) (6),  
5 (b) (1), (b) (2.3), (b) (2.7), (b) (3), (b) (8), or (b) (11) is a  
6 Class 4 felony.

7 (5) A violation of paragraph (b) (4), (b) (9), or (b) (12)  
8 is a Class 3 felony.

9 (6) A violation of paragraph (b) (5) or (b) (10) is a  
10 Class 2 felony.

11 (7) A violation of paragraph (b) (6) is a Class 1  
12 felony.

13 (g) A violation of subsection (a) (1) through (a) (7) or  
14 subsection (e) of this Section may be accomplished in person or  
15 by any means of communication, including but not limited to the  
16 use of an Internet website or any form of electronic  
17 communication.

18 (Source: P.A. 96-328, eff. 8-11-09; 96-1551, eff. 7-1-11;  
19 97-219, eff. 1-1-12; 97-597, eff. 1-1-12; incorporates change  
20 to Sec. 32-5 from 97-219; 97-1109, eff. 1-1-13.)