

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 541

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Version: First Committee Engrossment

Authors: Hilstrom and others

Subject: Outlawing posing as another person to harass or defame

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Overview

This bill adds to the crime of identity theft the specific crime of posing as another person for the purpose of harassing or defaming that person or another person.

Section

- 1** **Definitions.** Defines harass, defame, and pose for purposes of this bill.
- 2** **Crime.** Adds a new category to the definition of identity theft as a crime. The new category is posing as another person without that person's consent and then harassing or defaming that person or another person.
- 3** **Penalties.** Provides that the new category of identity theft may be punished by up to one year in prison, a fine of up to \$3,000, or both. This makes it a gross-misdemeanor-level crime equivalent to a theft of property worth more than \$250 but not more than \$500.
- 4** **Effective date.** Makes the bill effective August 1, 2007, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.