

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 537  
**Version:** As introduced

**DATE:** February 23, 2015

**Authors:** Hilstrom

**Subject:** Criminal defamation; false statements

**Analyst:** Rebecca Pirius, 651-296-5044

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: [www.house.mn/hrd/](http://www.house.mn/hrd/).

---

This bill amends the criminal act of defamation to punish only statements made that were knowingly false. It also strikes a current defense that allows a defendant to argue the act was justified because the defamatory matter was true and was communicated based on good motives and for justifiable ends.