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Overview

This bill contains a variety of provisions intended to deter and punish those who impersonate a peace officer or operate vehicles that are modified to look like an official law enforcement vehicle.

Section

- 1 **Prohibited lights.** Increases the penalty for using certain currently prohibited vehicle lights from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor if the violation occurs while the offender is impersonating a peace officer.
- 2 **Horn, siren.** Increases the penalty for violating current prohibitions on the use of certain horns and sirens on a vehicle from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor if the violation occurs while the offender is impersonating a peace officer.
- 3 **Security guard vehicle.** Requires security guard vehicles to be predominately grey and specifies the size and nature of permissible vehicle markings.
- 4 **Police, patrol, or security guard vehicle.** Prohibits the ownership and operation of vehicles modified to look like a law enforcement or security guard vehicle.
- 5 **Identification card.** Contains a cross-reference to the proposed peace officer drivers license designation (Section 6).
- 6 **Peace officer designation.** Authorizes peace officers to have their drivers licenses imprinted with a peace officer designation.

Section

- 7 Prohibition.** Prohibits private detectives and protective agents from using the words “marshal” and “agent” in their advertisements or on a form of identification such as a badge.
- 8 Impersonating a military officer or public official.** Removes “police” officers from the current law that prohibits impersonating an officer. (The provision is recodified in section 9.)
- 9 Impersonating a peace officer.**
- Subd. 1. Misdemeanor.** Maintains a misdemeanor penalty for garden variety impersonating a peace officer cases.
- Subd. 2. Gross misdemeanor.** Creates a gross misdemeanor for persons who impersonate a peace officer and (1) attempt to gain access to a public building that is not open to the public; (2) possess false credentials or identification; or (3) direct or order another person to act.
- Subd. 3. Felony.** Creates a felony for persons who (1) violate subdivision 1 or 2 while possessing a firearm or operating a vehicle that is modified to look like a law enforcement vehicle; and (2) have a previous violation of subdivision 1 or 2 in the past five years.
- 10 Impersonating a security guard.** Creates a gross misdemeanor penalty for a person who impersonates a security officer with the intent of entering a government facility that the person is either not otherwise authorized to enter or for a criminal purpose.
- 11 Unauthorized practice.** Increases the penalty for a second or subsequent conviction for the unauthorized practice of law enforcement from a gross misdemeanor to a felony.
- 12 Uniforms.** Requires security guards and protective agents to wear uniforms that are predominately white or grey.