
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 51 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Kleinpeter

Proposed law creates the crime of fraudulent representation of military service or awards and makes it unlawful for a person to make a false representation that he has received or otherwise holds a military service record or award that was either revoked or not granted, achieved, assigned, or earned with intent to injure, defraud, obtain economic gain, advantage, benefit, or secure any privilege for himself or another.

Proposed law provides that a person who commits the crime of fraudulent representation of military service or awards will be fined not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

Proposed law provides that whoever commits the crime of fraudulent representation of military service or awards with regard to any of the following military awards or honors will be fined up to \$5,000, imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than one year, or both:

- (1) Congressional Medal of Honor.
- (2) Distinguished-service cross.
- (3) Navy cross.
- (4) Air Force cross.
- (5) Silver star.
- (6) Purple Heart.
- (7) Combat Action Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, or Combat Action Medal.
- (8) A replacement or duplicate of any of these awards.

Proposed law provides that whoever commits the crime of fraudulent representation of military service or awards when the fraudulent representation results in the issuance of a benefit reserved to active duty service members, veterans, or the family members of active duty service members or veterans will be fined up to \$10,000, imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than five years, or both. Proposed law further provides that the offender must pay full restitution of the benefit received in violation of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that:

- (1) "Award" means any medal, service ribbon, ribbon device, badge, rank insignia, or other honor awarded by the U.S. armed forces, reserve forces of the U.S., or the national guard forces of any state.
- (2) "Service record" means the actual record compiled and maintained by the U.S. armed forces, reserve forces of the U.S., or the national guard forces of any state, that documents the service rank, deeds, achievements, qualifications, or actions performed by a person during his time in service.
- (3) "Veteran" means a person who has served in the U.S. armed forces, reserve forces of the U.S., or the national guard forces of any state.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 14:67.30)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Adds the Combat Action Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, or Combat Action Medal to the proposed law list of military awards that may not be falsely claimed.
2. Adds intent as an element of the offense.