

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 6

BY SENATOR CONNICK

CRIME/PUNISHMENT. Prohibits the distribution of misleading synthetic media. (8/1/24)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 14:73.14, relative to computer related crime; to create the crime of unlawful distribution of misleading synthetic media; to provide definitions; to provide penalties; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:73.14 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§73.14. Unlawful distribution of misleading synthetic media

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly and intentionally distribute or make publicly available any synthetic media purported to depict any natural person under all of the following circumstances:

(1) Without the consent of the natural person being depicted in the synthetic media.

(2) Without constantly displaying an obvious notice within the synthetic media identifying the media as synthetic media.

(3) With the intent to mislead others about the acts of the natural person depicted in the synthetic media.

B. For purposes of this Section, "synthetic media" means any image,

1 video, or voice recording that has been fully or partially generated by
 2 algorithms and appears to be a record of actual events.

3 C. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to a television or radio
 4 broadcast station licensed by the Federal Communications Commission that
 5 carries, transmits, distributes, or displays synthetic media created by a third
 6 party.

7 D. Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be imprisoned for
 8 not more than six months, fined not more than seven hundred fifty dollars, or
 9 both.

The original instrument was prepared by Alden A. Clement, Jr. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Jonathon Wagner.

DIGEST

SB 6 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Connick

Proposed law creates the crime of unlawful distribution of misleading synthetic media and provides that it is unlawful for any person to knowingly and intentionally distribute or make publicly available any synthetic media purported to depict any natural person under all of the following circumstances:

- (1) Without the consent of the natural person being depicted in the synthetic media.
- (2) Without constantly displaying an obvious notice within the synthetic media identifying the media as synthetic media.
- (3) With the intent to mislead others about the acts of the natural person depicted in the synthetic media.

Proposed law defines "synthetic media" as any image, video, or voice recording that has been fully or partially generated by algorithms and appears to be a record of actual events.

Proposed law provides that a person who commits the crime of unlawful distribution of misleading synthetic media will be imprisoned for up to six months, fined up to \$750, or both. Proposed law further provides an exemption to proposed law for television and radio broadcast stations licensed by the Federal Communications Commission that distribute synthetic media created by a third party.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 14:73.14)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary C to the original bill

1. Include still images in the definition of "synthetic media".
2. Add an exemption for television and radio stations that distribute third party synthetic media.