



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 125

January Session, 2011

Senate Bill No. 734

Senate, March 22, 2011

The Committee on Housing reported through SEN. GOMES of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING LANDLORD IMPERSONATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) (a) A person is guilty of
2 impersonation of a landlord when, without the consent of the owner of
3 a residential dwelling or of such owner's agent, such person, with
4 intent to obtain a benefit or to injure or defraud another, (1) claims
5 ownership or claims or takes possession of such residential dwelling
6 for the purpose of renting such dwelling to another, or (2) causes
7 another person to enter or remain in a residential dwelling for the
8 purpose of renting such dwelling to another.
- 9 (b) Impersonation of a landlord is a class D felony.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	New section
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HSG *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Judicial Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	Less than \$10,000	Less than \$10,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes it a class D felony for a person to impersonate a landlord, which will result in a potential revenue gain of less than \$10,000. The estimate assumes that a similar number of convictions for criminal impersonation are made in the future and the total revenue collected will increase proportionally to current collections.¹

The bill potentially would result in additional offenders placed on probation. Currently there are 100 people on probation with a guilty criminal impersonation charge, which represents about 0.2% of total adults currently on probation. It is anticipated that the number of additional offenders placed on probation would be less than 25, and would not require additional resources by the Judicial Department.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

Sources: *Judicial Department Offenses and Revenue Database*

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 734*****AN ACT CONCERNING LANDLORD IMPERSONATION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes “impersonation of a landlord” as a crime and makes it a class D felony, which is punishable by one to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both. A person commits the crime when he or she tries to rent a residential dwelling to someone without the consent of the owner or his or her agent and with the intent to obtain a benefit or injure or defraud another by (1) claiming ownership or possession, or taking possession, of the dwelling or (2) causing another person to enter or remain in the dwelling.

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, “criminal impersonation” is a class A misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to one year in prison, a fine of up to \$2,000, or both. Impersonation of a police officer is a class D felony.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011

BACKGROUND***Criminal Impersonation***

Generally, a person is guilty of criminal impersonation if he or she (1) impersonates another and acts with intent to obtain a benefit or to injure or defraud another; (2) pretends to be a representative of a person or organization and acts with intent to obtain a benefit or to injure or defraud another; or (3) pretends to be a public servant, other than a police officer, with intent to induce another to submit to that official authority (CGS § 53a-130).

¹ In 2010, 24 convictions were made for criminal impersonation, and \$6,360 in fine

COMMITTEE ACTION

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 11 Nay 0 (03/10/2011)

revenue was collected. The total revenue collected represents 13.25% of potential revenue that could have been collected.
