

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## SENATE BILL

No. 771 Session of  
1997

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, COSTA AND KUKOVICH, APRIL 1, 1997

SENATOR GREENLEAF, JUDICIARY, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 30, 1997

## AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, prohibiting the simulation of legal  
3 process and related acts; PROHIBITING THE USE OF UNOFFICIAL  
4 LICENSE PLATES; and imposing penalties. <—

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
8 Statutes is amended by adding ~~a section~~ SECTIONS to read: <—

9 § 4914. Simulated legal process.

10 (a) Legal process.--A person who simulates legal process,  
11 including, but not limited to, actions affecting title to real  
12 or personal property, indictments, subpoenas, warrants,  
13 injunctions, liens, orders, judgments or any legal documents or  
14 proceedings, knowing or having reason to know that the contents  
15 of the documents or proceedings or basis for any action to be  
16 fraudulent, commits a misdemeanor of the second degree.

17 (b) Impersonating public officer or legal tribunal.--A  
18 person who deliberately impersonates or falsely acts as a public

officer or legal tribunal, including, but not limited to,  
judges, prosecutors, sheriffs, deputies, constables or other  
court personnel or law enforcement authorities in connection  
with or relating to any legal process affecting any person or  
property or otherwise takes any action under color of law  
against any person or property, commits a misdemeanor of the  
second degree.

(c) Hindering public officer.--A person who falsely under  
color of law attempts to influence, intimidate or hinder a  
public official or law enforcement officer in discharge of  
official duties by threat of or actual physical violence,  
harassment, through simulated legal process or by other unlawful  
act, commits a misdemeanor of the second degree.

(d) Exceptions.--

(1) Nothing in this section shall make unlawful an act  
of a law enforcement officer or legal tribunal which is  
performed under lawful authority.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit persons from  
assembling freely to express opinions or designate group  
affiliation or association.

(3) Nothing in this section shall prohibit or in any way  
limit a person's lawful and legitimate access to the courts  
or prevent a person from instituting or responding to  
legitimate and lawful legal process.

(e) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
subsection:

"Legal process." A document or order issued by a court or  
other legal tribunal filed or recorded for the purpose of  
exercising jurisdiction or presenting a claim against a person

1 or property, for the purpose of directing a person to appear  
2 before a court or other legal tribunal or for the purpose of  
3 directing a person to perform or refrain from performing a  
4 specified act. The term includes, but is not limited to, a  
5 summons, lien, complaint, warrant, injunction, writ, notice,  
6 pleading, subpoena or order.

7 "Legal tribunal." A court, district justice or other  
8 judicial officer vested with the power to enter an order in a  
9 matter. The term includes a government unit when performing  
10 quasi-judicial functions.

11 § 4915. UNOFFICIAL LICENSE PLATES.

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12 A PERSON WHO OPERATES A VEHICLE WITH AN UNOFFICIAL LICENSE  
13 PLATE, NOT AUTHORIZED UNDER 75 PA.C.S. (RELATING TO VEHICLES) OR  
14 THE LAW OF ANOTHER JURISDICTION, SHALL BE GUILTY OF A  
15 MISDEMEANOR OF THE THIRD DEGREE.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.