

HB 698-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0561

11/09

HOUSE BILL

***698-FN***

AN ACT                    criminalizing the act of a person claiming to be a member of law enforcement when the person is not in uniform and cannot produce identification proving the claim.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Corcoran, Hills. 28; Rep. Belcher, Carr. 4; Rep. Granger, Straf. 2; Rep. Tom Mannion, Hills. 1

COMMITTEE:        Criminal Justice and Public Safety

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ANALYSIS

This bill creates a felony-level offense for claiming to be law enforcement when not in uniform and being unable to produce identification to prove the claim.

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Explanation:        Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
                         Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~  
                         Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five*

AN ACT                      criminalizing the act of a person claiming to be a member of law enforcement when the person is not in uniform and cannot produce identification proving the claim.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1            1 New Section; False Claim of Authority. Amend RSA 104 by inserting after section 104:28-a  
2 the following new section:

3            104:28-b Unsupported Claim of Authority.

4            Any person who knowingly claims or holds themselves out to be a law enforcement officer of any  
5 state or federal law enforcement agency with the intent to exercise power vested in such officer,  
6 while not wearing their official uniform and not providing official proof of membership in that agency  
7 upon demand, shall be guilty of a class B felony. This section shall not apply to law enforcement  
8 officers engaged in legitimate pre-approved undercover activity.

9            2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

**HB 698-FN- FISCAL NOTE  
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT criminalizing the act of a person claiming to be a member of law enforcement when the person is not in uniform and cannot produce identification proving the claim.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund</i>	None			
<b>Expenditures*</b>	Indeterminable			
<i>Funding Source</i>	General Fund			
<b>Appropriations*</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source</i>	None			

\*Expenditure = Cost of bill

\*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

Estimated Political Subdivision Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>County Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>County Expenditures</b>	Indeterminable			
<b>Local Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Local Expenditures</b>	Indeterminable			

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill adds, deletes, or modifies a criminal penalty, or changes statute to which there is a penalty for violation. Therefore, this bill may have an impact on the judicial and correctional systems, which could affect prosecution, incarceration, probation, and parole costs, for the state, as well as county and local governments. A summary of such costs can be found at: [https://gencourt.state.nh.us/lba/Budget/Fiscal\\_Notes/JudicialCorrectionalCosts.pdf](https://gencourt.state.nh.us/lba/Budget/Fiscal_Notes/JudicialCorrectionalCosts.pdf)

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Judicial Branch, Judicial Council, Department of Justice, Department of Corrections, New Hampshire Association of Counties, and New Hampshire Municipal Association