

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3209

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## AN ACT

To amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to false communications about certain criminal violations, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Anti-Hoax Terrorism  
3 Act of 2001”.

4 **SEC. 2. HOAXES AND RECOVERY COSTS.**

5 (a) PROHIBITION ON HOAXES.—Chapter 47 of title  
6 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after sec-  
7 tion 1036 the following:

8 **“§ 1037. False information and hoaxes**

9 “(a) CRIMINAL VIOLATION.—Whoever engages in  
10 any conduct, with intent to convey false or misleading in-  
11 formation, under circumstances where such information  
12 may reasonably be believed and where such information  
13 concerns an activity which would constitute a violation of  
14 section 175, 229, 831, or 2332a, shall be fined under this  
15 title or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

16 “(b) CIVIL ACTION.—Whoever engages in any con-  
17 duct, with intent to convey false or misleading informa-  
18 tion, under circumstances where such information con-  
19 cerns an activity which would constitute a violation of sec-  
20 tion 175, 229, 831, or 2332a, is liable in a civil action  
21 to any party incurring expenses incident to any emergency  
22 or investigative response to that conduct, for those ex-  
23 penses.

24 “(c) REIMBURSEMENT.—The court, in imposing a  
25 sentence on a defendant who has been convicted of an of-  
26 fense under subsection (a), shall order the defendant to

1 reimburse any party incurring expenses incident to any  
2 emergency or investigative response to that conduct, for  
3 those expenses. A person ordered to make reimbursement  
4 under this subsection shall be jointly and severally liable  
5 for such expenses with each other person, if any, who is  
6 ordered to make reimbursement under this subsection for  
7 the same expenses. An order of reimbursement under this  
8 subsection shall, for the purposes of enforcement, be treat-  
9 ed as a civil judgment.”.

10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
11 at the beginning of chapter 47 of title 18, United States  
12 Code, is amended by adding after the item for section  
13 1036 the following:

“1037. False information and hoaxes.”.

Passed the House of Representatives December 12,  
2001.

Attest:

*Clerk.*



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