

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1658

To improve Federal criminal penalties on false information and terrorist hoaxes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 8, 2001

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. HATCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To improve Federal criminal penalties on false information and terrorist hoaxes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

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

7 (a) PROHIBITION ON HOAXES.—Chapter 41 of title
8 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after sec-
9 tion 880 the following:

1 **“§ 881. False information and hoaxes**

2 “(a) CRIMINAL VIOLATION.—Whoever knowingly en-
3 gages in any conduct—

4 “(1) knowing that the conduct is likely to im-
5 part the false impression that activity is or will take
6 place that violates section 175, 229, 831, or 2332a;
7 and

8 “(2) that may reasonably be expected to be be-
9 lieved to cause an emergency response by govern-
10 mental agencies or that causes an emergency re-
11 sponse by governmental agencies to that activity;
12 shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than
13 5 years, or both.

14 “(b) REIMBURSEMENT.—

15 “(1) CONVICTED DEFENDANT.—The court, in
16 imposing a sentence on a defendant who has been
17 convicted of an offense under subsection (a), shall
18 order the defendant to reimburse for any expenses
19 incurred incident to the investigation of the commis-
20 sion by that person of such offense, including the
21 cost of any response made by any Federal military
22 or civilian agency to protect public health or safety.

23 “(2) JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY LIABLE.—A
24 person ordered to reimburse for expenses under this
25 subsection shall be jointly and severally liable for
26 such expenses with each other person, if any, who is

1 ordered under this subsection to reimburse for the
2 same expenses.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
4 at the beginning of chapter 41 of title 18, United States
5 Code, is amended by adding after the item for section 880
6 the following:

“881. False information and hoaxes.”.

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