AN ACT REVISING LAWS REGARDING PENALTIES FOR FALSELY REPORTING CRIMES; PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR WHEN THE CRIME THAT IS FALSELY REPORTED IS A MISDEMEANOR AND MORE SERIOUS PENALTIES FOR FALSELY REPORTING FELONIES; AND AMENDING SECTION 45-7-205, MCA.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 45-7-205, MCA, is amended to read:

"**45-7-205. False reports to** ~~law enforcement authorities~~ **peace officers.** (1) A person commits an offense under this section if the person knowingly:

(a)   gives false information to any ~~law enforcement~~ peace officer with the purpose to implicate another;

(b)   reports to ~~law enforcement authorities~~ a peace officer an offense or other incident within ~~their~~ the officer's concern knowing that it did not occur; or

(c)   pretends to furnish ~~law enforcement authorities~~ a peace officer with information relating to an offense or incident when the person knows that the person has no information relating to the offense or incident.

(2)   A person convicted under this section shall ~~be fined~~ ~~not to exceed $500 or be imprisoned in the~~ ~~county jail for any term not to exceed 6 months, or both.~~:

(a)   if the crime falsely reported was a misdemeanor, be sentenced to not more than 6 months in the county jail or fined not more than $500, or both; or

(b)   if the crime falsely reported was a felony, be sentenced to not more than 4 years in the state prison or fined not more than $10,000, or both."

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,

SB 240, originated in the Senate.

_____

Secretary of the Senate

_____

President of the Senate

Signed this _____day

of_____, 2021.

_____

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____day

of_____, 2021.

SENATE BILL NO. 240

INTRODUCED BY T. MANZELLA, M. BINKLEY, N. DURAM, F. GARNER, B. USHER

AN ACT REVISING LAWS REGARDING PENALTIES FOR FALSELY REPORTING CRIMES; PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR WHEN THE CRIME THAT IS FALSELY REPORTED IS A MISDEMEANOR AND MORE SERIOUS PENALTIES FOR FALSELY REPORTING FELONIES; AND AMENDING SECTION 45-7-205, MCA.