



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Senate Appropriations Committee, Chair
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1899 (MATHIS)
SUPPORT
Senate Appropriations Committee**

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1899 (Mathis).

Under existing law there are several sections in the Penal Code that prohibit the fraudulent impersonation or attempted impersonation of a peace officer, fire fighter, and other public officers and employees. These provisions proscribe willfully wearing, exhibiting, or using the authorized badge, uniform, insignia, emblem, device, label, certificate, card, or writing of those officers and employees to commit the fraudulent impersonation. Existing law also prohibits the credible impersonation "of another *actual person*" on an internet website, or by other electronic means for purposes of defrauding another person.

It is unclear whether purporting to be a peace officer or other public officer or employee generally, as opposed to an actual person who is such an officer or employee, via an internet website or by other electronic means is prohibited under existing law. AB 1899 modernizes existing law to reflect changes in technology and ensures that the false impersonation of a peace officer, firefighter, public utility employee, state or local government agency employee or officer, and a member of a search and rescue team via an internet website, or by other electronic means for purposes of defrauding another is prohibited under California law.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney

cc: Assembly Member Mathis

