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S.F. No. 682 – Enhanced Penalty for Reporting Fictitious Emergencies (i.e., “Swatting”)

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Section 1 adds a three-year felony penalty for a person who places an emergency call reporting a fictitious emergency with the intent of prompting an emergency response by law enforcement, fire, or EMS personnel, and, as a result of the response, someone suffers substantial bodily harm. Under current law, the base crime for doing this is a gross misdemeanor. It is a ten-year felony if the response results in someone’s death or great bodily harm, but there is no enhanced penalty for lower-level injuries.

Section 2 requires a court to order a person convicted of violating this crime (either the gross misdemeanor base crime or either of the two enhanced felonies) to pay full and complete restitution.