
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2021 Wisconsin Act 263
[2021 Assembly Bill 251]

**Impersonating a Public Officer,
Public Employee, or Employee of
a Utility**

2021 WISCONSIN ACT 263

Under current law, a person who does any of the following is guilty of a Class I felony:

- Assumes to act in an official capacity or to perform an official function of a public officer, public employee, or employee of a utility, knowing that he or she does not hold that position.
- Exercises any function of a public office, knowing that he or she is not qualified to exercise that function or that his or her right to exercise that function has ceased.

2021 Act 263 provides that it is also a Class I felony for a person to impersonate or represent himself or herself to be a public officer, a public employee, or the employee of a utility with the intent to mislead others into believing that he or she actually is a public officer, public employee, or employee of a public utility.

With this change, a person may be found guilty of a Class I felony for falsely impersonating or representing oneself as a public officer, public employee, or employee of a utility, even if the person does not act in an official capacity, perform an official function, or exercise a function of a public office.

Effective date: April 17, 2022

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