

HB 1695 -- Political Cyberfraud

Sponsor: Donnelly

This bill establishes the Missouri Political Cyberfraud Act and creates the crime of political cyberfraud, a class B misdemeanor. A person will be guilty of this crime if he or she intends to defraud or mislead others about web sites that support or oppose a ballot measure. Prohibited actions include:

- (1) Diverting Internet traffic from the ballot measure site to another web site using similar domain names, meta-tags, or other electronic measures;
- (2) Preventing exit from the ballot measure site through the use of various electronic measures;
- (3) Registering a domain name similar to the one used for the ballot measure site; and
- (4) Cybersquatting or preventing the use of domain names for ballot measure sites by holding or selling a domain name with the intent of preventing its use for a ballot measure site.

Domain name registrars, a registry, and registration authorities will be exempt from the provisions of the bill.