

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**OFFICIAL CODE**

**TITLE 22.**  
**CRIMINAL OFFENSES AND PENALTIES.**

**CHAPTER 24.**  
**PERJURY; RELATED OFFENSES.**

**2001 Edition**

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICIAL CODE**  
**CHAPTER 24. PERJURY; RELATED OFFENSES.**

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

---

[§ 22-2401. Perjury; subornation of perjury.\[Repealed\]](#)

[§ 22-2402. Perjury.](#)

[§ 22-2403. Subornation of perjury.](#)

[§ 22-2404. False swearing.](#)

[§ 22-2405. False statements.](#)

# CHAPTER 24. PERJURY; RELATED OFFENSES.

## **§ 22-2401. PERJURY; SUBORNATION OF PERJURY.[REPEALED]**

(Dec. 1, 1982, D.C. Law 4-164, § 602(nn), 29 DCR 3976.)

### *HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES*

#### *Prior Codifications*

1981 Ed., § 22-2501.

#### *Legislative History of Laws*

Law 4-164, the "District of Columbia Theft and White Collar Crimes Act of 1982," was introduced in council and assigned Bill No. 4-133, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The Bill was adopted on first, amended first and second readings on June 22, 1982, July 6, 1982, and July 20, 1982, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on August 4, 1982, it was assigned Act No. 4-238 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review.

## **§ 22-2402. PERJURY.**

(a) A person commits the offense of perjury if:

(1) Having taken an oath or affirmation before a competent tribunal, officer, or person, in a case in which the law authorized such oath or affirmation to be administered, that he or she will testify, declare, depose, or certify truly, or that any written testimony, declaration, deposition, or certificate by that person subscribed is true, wilfully and contrary to an oath or affirmation states or subscribes any material matter which he or she does not believe to be true and which in fact is not true;

(2) As a notary public or other officer authorized to take proof of certification, wilfully certifies falsely that an instrument was acknowledged by any party thereto or wilfully certifies falsely as to another material matter in an acknowledgement; or

(3) In any declaration, certificate, verification, or statement made under penalty of perjury in the form specified in § 16-5306 or 28 U.S.C. § 1746(2), the person wilfully states or subscribes as true any material matter that the person does not believe to be true and that in fact is not true.

(b) Any person convicted of perjury shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both.

(Dec. 1, 1982, D.C. Law 4-164, § 401, 29 DCR 3976; July 23, 2010, D.C. Law 18-191, § 3, 57 DCR 3400.)

### *HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES*

#### *Prior Codifications*

1981 Ed., § 22-2511.

#### *Effect of Amendments*

D.C. Law 18-191, in subsec. (a), deleted "or" from the end of par. (1); substituted "; or" for a period at the end of par. (2), and added par. (3).

#### *Legislative History of Laws*

For legislative history of D.C. Law 4-164, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 22-2401.

Law 18-191, the "Uniform Unsworn Foreign Declarations Amendment Act of 2010", was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 18-427, which was referred to the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on March 2, 2010, and March 16, 2010, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on April 7, 2010, it was assigned Act No. 18-380 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress

for its review. D.C. Law 18-191 became effective on July 23, 2010.

### **§ 22-2403. SUBORNATION OF PERJURY.**

A person commits the offense of subornation of perjury if that person wilfully procures another to commit perjury. Any person convicted of subornation of perjury shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both.

(Dec. 1, 1982, D.C. Law 4-164, § 402, 29 DCR 3976.)

#### *HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES*

##### *Prior Codifications*

1981 Ed., § 22-2512.

##### *Legislative History of Laws*

For legislative history of D.C. Law 4-164, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 22-2401.

### **§ 22-2404. FALSE SWEARING.**

(a) A person commits the offense of false swearing if under oath or affirmation he or she wilfully makes a false statement, in writing, that is in fact material and the statement is one which is required by law to be sworn or affirmed before a notary public or other person authorized to administer oaths.

(b) Any person convicted of false swearing shall be fined not more than \$2,500 or imprisoned for not more than 3 years, or both.

(Dec. 1, 1982, D.C. 4-164, § 403, 29 DCR 3976.)

#### *HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES*

##### *Prior Codifications*

1981 Ed., § 22-2513.

##### *Legislative History of Laws*

For legislative history of D.C. Law 4-164, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 22-2401.

### **§ 22-2405. FALSE STATEMENTS.**

(a) A person commits the offense of making false statements if that person wilfully makes a false statement that is in fact material, in writing, directly or indirectly, to any instrumentality of the District of Columbia government, under circumstances in which the statement could reasonably be expected to be relied upon as true; provided, that the writing indicates that the making of a false statement is punishable by criminal penalties or if that person makes an affirmation by signing an entity filing or other document under Title 29 of the District of Columbia Official Code, knowing that the facts stated in the filing are not true in any material respect or if that person makes an affirmation by signing a declaration under § 1-1061.13, knowing that the facts stated in the filing are not true in any material respect;

(b) Any person convicted of making false statements shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than 180 days, or both. A violation of this section shall be prosecuted by the Attorney General for the District of Columbia or one of the Attorney General's assistants.

(Dec. 1, 1982, D.C. Law 4-164, § 404, 29 DCR 3976; Aug. 20, 1994, D.C. Law 10-151, § 113(e), 41 DCR 2608; July 2, 2011, D.C. Law 18-378, § 3(e), 58 DCR 1720; June 5, 2012, D.C. Law 19-137, § 121(b), 59 DCR 2542.)

#### *HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES*

##### *Prior Codifications*

1981 Ed., § 22-2514.

##### *Effect of Amendments*

D.C. Law 18-378, in subsec. (a), inserted "or if that person makes an affirmation by signing an entity filing or other document under Title 29 of the District of Columbia Official Code, knowing that the facts stated in the filing are not true in any material respect"; and, in subsec. (b), added the second sentence .

D.C. Law 19-137, in subsec. (a), substituted "or if that person makes an affirmation by signing a declaration under § 1-1061.13, knowing that the facts stated in the filing are not true in any material respect" for "respect".

#### *Temporary Amendments of Section*

Section 121(b) of D.C. Law 19-88, in subsec. (a), substituted "or if that person makes an affirmation by signing a declaration under section 113 of the Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Temporary Act of 2011, passed on 2nd reading on December 6, 2011 (Enrolled version of Bill 19-547), knowing that the facts stated in the filing are not true in any material respect." for a period.

Section 302(b) of D.C. Law 19-88 provides that the act shall expire after 225 days of its having taken effect.

#### *Emergency Act Amendments*

For temporary amendment of section, see § 113(e) of the Omnibus Criminal Justice Reform Emergency Amendment Act of 1994 (D.C. Act 10-255, June 22, 1994, 41 DCR 4286).

For temporary (90 day) amendment of section, see § 121(b) of Comprehensive Military and Overseas Voters Accommodation Emergency Act of 2011 (D.C. Act 19- 230, November 16, 2011, 58 DCR 9942).

For temporary (90 day) amendment of section, see § 121(b) of Comprehensive Military and Overseas Voters Accommodation Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2012 (D.C. Act 19-310, February 22, 2012, 59 DCR 1688).

#### *Legislative History of Laws*

For legislative history of D.C. Law 4-164, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 22-2401.

Law 10-151, the "Omnibus Criminal Justice Reform Amendment Act of 1994," was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 10-98, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on March 29, 1994, and April 12, 1994, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on May 4, 1994, it was assigned Act No. 10-238 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review. D.C. Law 10-151 became effective on August 20, 1994.

Law 18-378, the "District of Columbia Official Code Title 29 (Business Organizations) Enactment Act of 2009", was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 18-500, which was referred to the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on December 7, 2010, and December 21, 2010, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on February 27, 2011, it was assigned Act No. 18-724 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review. D.C. Law 18-378 became effective on July 2, 2011.

Law 19-137, the "Comprehensive Military and Overseas Voters Accommodation Amendment Act of 2012", was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 19-356, which was referred to the Committee on Government Operations. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on February 7, 2012, and March 6, 2012, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on March 27, 2012, it was assigned Act No. 19-334 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review. D.C. Law 19- 137 became effective on June 5, 2012.