
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1071

AN ACT CONCERNING DECEPTIVE OR COERCIVE INTERROGATION TACTICS.

SUMMARY

This bill creates a rebuttable presumption that a written or oral admission, confession, or statement is involuntary and inadmissible in any proceeding if it was made by someone during a custodial interrogation in which a law enforcement agency official or the official's agent used deception or coercive tactics.

This presumption may be overcome if the state proves by clear and convincing evidence that the (1) admission, confession, or statement was voluntary and not induced by deception or coercive tactics and (2) alleged use of deception or coercive tactics did not undermine the reliability of the person's admission, confession, or statement and did not create a substantial risk that the person might falsely incriminate himself or herself.

Under the bill, "deception or coercive tactics" includes unreasonably depriving the person being interrogated of physical or mental health needs that are known or should be known to exist, including food, sleep, restroom use, or prescribed medications. It also includes using or threatening:

1. to use physical force on the person being interrogated or another person to compel an admission, confession, or statement;
2. the unlawful arrest of another person; or
3. to impose unlawful penalties or unlawful administrative or immigration sanctions on the person being interrogated or on another person.

If the person being interrogated is under age 18, “deception or coercive tactics” also includes tactics that communicate the following, which law enforcement officials and their agents know or should know to be false, misrepresentative, or misleading:

1. false facts about evidence;
2. false statements or misrepresentations of the law; or
3. false or misleading promises of leniency or some other benefit or reward.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 13 (03/27/2023)