

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 88 (HB 7)

2019 Regular Session

Dwight

New law creates the crime of communication interference and defines it as the willful or malicious interference with any communication operated or controlled by the state; used or intended to be used by the military or civil defense functions; or controlled by any legal entity created for the purpose of or engaged in generating, transmitting, providing, and distributing utilities or utility services to the public.

New law provides penalties of a fine of not more than \$10,000, imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than ten years, or both, for a first offense. For a second or subsequent offense, new law provides penalties of a fine of not more than \$10,000, imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than fifteen years, or both.

New law also provides exceptions to the crime for the following:

- (1) Certain activities performed for purposes of collective bargaining or mutual aid protection, for military or civil defense functions, or for certain private entities specified in new law.
- (2) Any of the following entities while engaged in the course and scope of their business activities: (a) any entity the security issues of which are subject to approval, control, regulation, or supervision by the federal government or any agency thereof under any other federal statute; (b) any entity whose business is subject to regulation by the Federal Communications Commission; or (c) any entity conducting or carrying on its business or operations in two or more states.
- (3) Member-owned electric cooperatives, municipally owned electric service providers, privately owned utilities, or investor-owned utilities regulated by the La. Public Service Commission or the city council of New Orleans when engaged in the course and scope of their business activities.

Effective August 1, 2019.

(Adds R.S. 14:73.11)