

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 441

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRYANT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CRIME/ASSAULT: Provides relative to assault upon a utility service employee

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 14:37.5(B)(2) and (3), relative to assault; to provide relative to  
3 the crime of aggravated assault upon a utility service employee with a firearm; to  
4 amend definitions; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 14:37.5(B)(2) and (3) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
7 follows:

8 §37.5. Aggravated assault upon a utility service employee with a firearm

9 \* \* \*

10 B. For purposes of this Section:

11 \* \* \*

12 (2) "Utility service" means any electricity, gas, water, broadband, cable  
13 television, heat, steam, or telecommunications service, or sewer services.

14 (3) "Utility service employee" means any uniformed, readily identified  
15 employee ~~of any utility service, including any person employed under contract, of~~  
16 any utility service that provides electricity, gas, water, broadband, cable television,  
17 heat, steam, telecommunications services, or sewer services, whether privately,  
18 municipally, cooperatively, or investor-owned.

19 \* \* \*

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**DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 441 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Bryant

**Abstract:** Amends definitions of "utility service" and "utility service employee".

Present law provides for the crime of aggravated assault upon a utility service employee with a firearm and provides for penalties.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides for the following definitions:

- (1) "Utility service" means any electricity, gas, water, broadband, cable television, or telecommunications service.
- (2) "Utility service employee" means any uniformed, readily identified employee of any utility service.

Proposed law amends the present law definition of "utility service" to include heat, steam, and sewer services. Further amends the present law definition of "utility service employee" to include any person employed under contract, or an employee of any utility service that provides electricity, gas, water, broadband, cable television, heat, steam, telecommunications services, or sewer services, whether privately, municipally, cooperatively, or investor-owned.

(Amends R.S. 14:37.5(B)(2) and (3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Extend the definition of "utility service employee" to encompass an individual who works for a utility service that is investor-owned.