
DIGEST

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SB 15 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Morris

Present law defines the crime of obstruction of justice and provides penalties for violations.

Proposed law retains present law and adds obstruction of civil immigration proceedings and obstruction of official acts of an agent or employee of a governmental entity to the present law definition of obstruction of justice.

Proposed law adds, as an additional circumstance of present law, knowingly committing any act intended to hinder, delay, prevent, or otherwise interfere with or thwart federal immigration enforcement efforts.

Proposed law provides that a person who commits obstruction of justice regarding a civil immigration proceeding shall be fined not more than \$5,000, imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than one year, or both.

Proposed law provides that a person who commits obstruction of justice regarding an official act of an agent or employee of a governmental entity will be fined not more than \$1,000 imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

Present law defines the crime of malfeasance in office.

Proposed law retains present law and adds to the crime of malfeasance in office:

- (1) Taking any official action, failing to perform an official duty, or refusing a lawful request for cooperation submitted by either U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services with the intent to hinder, delay, prevent, or otherwise interfere, ignore, or thwart federal immigration enforcement efforts.
- (2) Knowingly releasing a person, following arrest or booking, from state, parish, or local law enforcement custody without providing advance notice to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement that the law enforcement agency effecting release is aware that the person either illegally entered or unlawfully remained in the U.S.

Present law provides that an executive law enforcement official in La. will carry out his duties and exercise the powers of his office or agency in accordance with the constitution and laws of this state.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that an executive law enforcement official in La. will comply with certain lawful written requests or detainers, pertaining to illegal immigration, submitted to his office or agency by certain U.S. law enforcement agencies.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 14:130.1(A)(intro. para.) and 134(A); Adds R.S. 14:130.1(A)(6) and (B)(6) and (7))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary C to the original bill

1. Make technical changes.

2. Expand obstruction of justice to immigration proceedings and official governmental acts.
3. Add penalties for violating proposed law relative to immigration proceedings and official governmental acts.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Make technical changes.
2. Expand actions constituting malfeasance in office.
3. Require certain federal law enforcement requests to be complied with by executive law enforcement officials.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Specify that the term of imprisonment for a violation of present law involving a civil immigration proceeding shall be with or without hard labor.
2. Relative to criminal prosecution for obstruction of justice, specify that a person has to knowingly commit any act intended to hinder, delay, prevent, or otherwise interfere with or thwart federal immigration enforcement efforts.