
DIGEST

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HB 577 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Norton

Abstract: Expands application of the crime of threatening a public official to law enforcement officers and threats made through social media, and provides that the crime is committed when done in retaliation for the legal duties of the officer or official.

Present law defines the crime of threatening a public official as any verbal or written communication which threatens serious bodily injury or death to a public official.

Present law provides that whoever commits the crime of threatening a public official shall be fined not more than \$500, or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

Present law further provides that these penalties shall apply when the person commits the crime of threatening a public official with the intent to influence his conduct in relation to his position, employment, or official duty, or in retaliation as reprisal for his previous action in relation to his position, employment, or official duty.

Present law defines "public official" as any executive, ministerial, administrative, judicial, or legislative officer of the state of La.

Proposed law retains present law, but amends the crime to do all of the following:

- (1) Expands its application to threats made to law enforcement.
- (2) Expand its application to threats made through social media.
- (3) Provide that the crime is committed when the threat is made in retaliation for the legal performance of the legal duties of the public official or law enforcement officer.

(Amends R.S. 14:122.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Specify that the crime is committed when the threat is made in retaliation for the legal performance of the legal duties of the public official or law enforcement officer.

