
DIGEST

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Wooton

HB No. 497

Abstract: Adds three types of threats which can constitute criminal extortion.

Present law establishes the crime of extortion and defines it as the communication of threats to another with the intention to obtain anything of value or any acquittance, advantage, or immunity of any description. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law lists five types of threats sufficient to constitute extortion:

- (1) A threat to do any unlawful injury to the person or property of the individual threatened or of any member of his family or of any other person held dear to him.
- (2) A threat to accuse the individual threatened or any member of his family or any other person held dear to him of any crime.
- (3) A threat to expose or impute any deformity or disgrace to the individual threatened or to any member of his family or to any other person held dear to him.
- (4) A threat to expose any secret affecting the individual threatened or any member of his family or any other person held dear to him.
- (5) A threat to do any other harm.

Proposed law retains present law and adds three additional types of threats:

- (1) A threat to take or withhold action as a public official or cause a public official to take or withhold action.
- (2) A threat to testify or provide information or withhold testimony or information with respect to another's legal claim or defense.
- (3) A threat to perform any act which would not, standing alone, substantially benefit the actor but which is calculated to substantially harm another person with respect to his health, safety, business, vocation, career, financial condition, reputation, or personal relationships.

(Amends R.S. 14:66)