

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 237

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE KELLEY (127).

0185H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 455.538, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to protective orders, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 455.538, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 455.538, to read as follows:

455.538. 1. When a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that a party, against whom a protective order for a child has been entered, has committed an act in violation of that order, the officer shall have the authority to arrest the respondent whether or not the violation occurred in the presence of the arresting officer.

2. When a person, against whom an order of protection for a child has been entered, fails to surrender custody of minor children to the person to whom custody was awarded in an order of protection, the law enforcement officer shall arrest the respondent, and shall turn the minor children over to the care and custody of the party to whom such care and custody was awarded.

3. The same procedures, including those designed to protect constitutional rights, shall be applied to the respondent as those applied to any individual detained in police custody.

4. (1) Violation of the terms and conditions of an ex parte or full order of protection with regard to domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, child custody, communication initiated by the respondent, or entrance upon the premises of the victim's dwelling unit or place of employment or school, or being within a certain distance of the petitioner or a child of the petitioner, of which the respondent has notice, shall be a class A misdemeanor, unless the respondent has previously pleaded guilty to or has been found guilty in any division of the circuit court of violating an ex parte order of protection or a full order of protection within five years

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 of the date of the subsequent violation, in which case the subsequent violation shall be a class
19 E felony. Evidence of a prior plea of guilty or finding of guilt shall be heard by the court out of
20 the presence of the jury prior to submission of the case to the jury. If the court finds the
21 existence of a prior plea of guilty or finding of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, the court shall
22 decide the extent or duration of sentence or other disposition and shall not instruct the jury as to
23 the range of punishment or allow the jury to assess and declare the punishment as a part of its
24 verdict.

25 (2) For purposes of this subsection, in addition to the notice provided by actual service
26 of the order, a party is deemed to have notice of an order of protection for a child if the law
27 enforcement officer responding to a call of a reported incident of domestic violence, stalking,
28 sexual assault, or violation of an order of protection for a child presents a copy of the order of
29 protection to the respondent.

30 5. The fact that an act by a respondent is a violation of a valid order of protection for a
31 child shall not preclude prosecution of the respondent for other crimes arising out of the incident
32 in which the protection order is alleged to have been violated.

33 **6. If a petitioner who has been granted an ex parte or full order of protection by**
34 **the court initiates contact in any manner or through any medium with the respondent of**
35 **such ex parte or full order of protection, the petitioner shall be guilty of a class A**
36 **misdemeanor, unless the petitioner has previously pleaded guilty to or has been found**
37 **guilty of a violation of this subsection within five years of the date of the subsequent**
38 **violation under this subsection, in which case the subsequent violation shall be a class E**
39 **felony.**

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