

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1297

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE COOK.

2843H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 575, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the offense of impeding, threatening, or harassing a first responder, with a penalty provision.

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

Section A. Chapter 575, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 575.356, to read as follows:

- 575.356. 1. A person commits the offense of impeding, threatening, or harassing a first responder if such person after receiving an oral warning not to approach from an individual that the person knows or reasonably should know is a first responder and the individual is engaged in the lawful performance of his or her duties as a first responder knowingly and willfully violates such warning and approaches or remains within twenty-five feet of the first responder with the intent to:**
- (1) Impede or interfere with the first responder's ability to perform such duties;**
 - (2) Threaten the first responder with physical harm; or**
 - (3) Harass the first responder.**
- 2. The offense of impeding, threatening, or harassing a first responder is a class D misdemeanor.**
- 3. As used in this section, the following terms mean:**
- (1) "Emergency medical care provider", an ambulance driver, emergency medical technician, paramedic, registered nurse, physician, or medical director. The term "emergency medical care provider" also includes a physician, employee, agent, or volunteer of a hospital as defined in section 190.100 who is employed, under contract, or**

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.

17 **otherwise authorized by a hospital to perform duties directly associated with the care**
18 **and treatment rendered by the hospital's emergency department or the security thereof;**

19 **(2) "First responder", a law enforcement officer as defined in section 556.061, a**
20 **parole or probation officer, a firefighter as defined in section 87.120, or an emergency**
21 **medical care provider;**

22 **(3) "Harass", to willfully engage in a course of conduct directed at a first**
23 **responder that intentionally causes substantial emotional distress in that first responder**
24 **and serves no legitimate purpose.**

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