

HB 2383 -- CRIMINAL OFFENSES INVOLVING CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURES

SPONSOR: Simmons

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Utilities by a vote of 17 to 1 with 1 member voting present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill modifies the definition of "critical infrastructure facility" to include wireline telecommunication networks, infrastructure, or facilities in addition to wireless telecommunication networks, infrastructure, or facilities.

Currently, a person commits the offense of damage of a critical infrastructure facility if he or she purposely damages, destroys, or tampers with equipment in a critical infrastructure facility. This bill modifies the offense to add if he or she willfully or maliciously damages, destroys or tampers with a critical infrastructure facility or removes any component of the facility excluding equipment. Classifications of the offense are specified in the bill and depend on the monetary value of the damages.

Any person who violates these provisions will be required to make restitution and perform community service as specified in the bill.

A person commits the offense of unauthorized possession of certain copper, brass, aluminum, fiber, or telecommunications materials if the person knowingly possesses such metals, fiber, or materials and is not the person authorized, as specified in the bill, to possess them. The offense of unauthorized possession of certain copper, brass, aluminum, fiber, or telecommunications materials is a class E felony, except it is a class D felony if certain circumstances are proven at trial.

This bill is similar to SB 903 (2026).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill would expand the existing law relating to critical infrastructure to include fiber access cable and criminalize unauthorized possession of copper wire, which is a component of many critical infrastructure facilities. Missouri is ranked 3rd for copper theft, much of which is stolen from internet service providers. The bill would discourage the theft of this copper, which if stolen can impact the response time of businesses and public safety personnel.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Simmons; Ameren Missouri; T-Mobile USA, Inc.; Missouri Police Chiefs Legislative Coalition; Verizon Communications; At&T; Missouri Municipal League; Municipal League of Metro St. Louis; Missouri Broadband Providers; Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives; Missouri Chamber of Commerce; Missouri Association of Counties; and Arnie Dienoff.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.