

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 24

SESSION: 1999 Regular Session

TOPIC: Interference with emergency calls

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Overview

This act makes it a gross misdemeanor to interfere with emergency telephone calls.

1 **Emergency calls and communications.**

Subd. 1. Misdemeanor offenses. This subdivision is substantially unchanged. It provides a misdemeanor penalty and

- requires telephones be relinquished for emergency calls;
- prohibits falsely stating a phone is needed for an emergency call;
- requires telephone directories include a copy of this section of law;
- prohibits calls for emergency medical service when the caller knows no medical emergency exists; and
- prohibits interference with citizens' band radio transmissions informing or inquiring about emergencies.

Subd. 2. Interference with emergency calls; gross misdemeanor. Makes interference with an emergency call a gross misdemeanor; prior law provided a gross misdemeanor penalty for 911 calls only.

Subd. 3. Definition. Adds a definition of emergency call using language that was in subdivision 1. An emergency call is

- a 911 call;
- a call for emergency medical or ambulance service; or
- a call to police or fire departments or any call for assistance to avoid serious harm to person or property, when an emergency exists.

2 **Effective date.** The day following enactment for crimes committed on or after that date.

