

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 20

SESSION: 2013 Regular Session

TOPIC: Crimes related to 911 calls

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Overview

Expands the list of acts that constitutes criminal conduct related to emergency telephone calls. Creates new misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, and felony level offenses under the statute and re-defines a term.

Section

1 Emergency telephone calls and communications.

Subd. 1. Misdemeanor offenses. Imposes a misdemeanor on those who make or initiate an emergency call when no emergency exists and the caller remains silent or makes abusive or harassing statements with the intent of reducing the provision of emergency services *or* the emergency call center's resources.

Subd. 2. Gross misdemeanor offenses. Creates two new gross misdemeanor offenses. One, it would be unlawful to place an emergency call and report a fictitious emergency with the intent of prompting an emergency response. Two, it would be a gross misdemeanor to violate the new offense established in subdivision 1 for a second time.

Subd. 2a. Felony offense; reporting fictitious emergency resulting in serious injury. A person who violates the prohibition on fictitious calls established in subdivision 2 and the call triggers an emergency response that results in someone suffering great bodily harm or death is guilty of a 10-year felony.

Section

Subd. 2b. Other felony offenses. Creates 5-year felonies for persons who violate subdivision 1 for a third or subsequent time and those who block, interfere with, overload, or otherwise prevent the emergency call center's system from functioning properly, and these actions make the system unavailable to someone needing assistance.

Subd. 3. Definition. Redefines the term "emergency call" for purposes of the offenses created in subdivisions 1, 2, and 2a.