

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H. F. 193
Version: First Engrossment
Authors: Paymar
Subject: Interference with emergency calls
Analyst: Vicky Donaldson, 651-296-5808

DATE: February 15, 1999

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Overview

This bill 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

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

Subd. 2. Interference with emergency calls; gross misdemeanor. Existing law applied to only 911 calls. This subdivision now applies to all emergency calls and makes interference with emergency calls a gross misdemeanor.

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

- (1) a 911 call;
- (2) a call for emergency medical or ambulance service; or
- (3) 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.