

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Interference with Emergency Communications

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Overview

Creates a new felony: Interference with Emergency Communications. Imposes a five-year/\$10,000 penalty for unauthorized interference with emergency communications when the perpetrator knows or has reason to know that the interference will obstruct, prevent, or misdirect emergency communications.

Under current law, interfering with emergency communications would constitute obstructing the legal process (§ 609.50), which is a misdemeanor unless the conduct caused or created a risk of death, substantial bodily harm, or serious property damage which would make it a five-year felony. If the perpetrator's actions interfered with an emergency call (*i.e.*, 911 call), it may also constitute interference with an emergency call (§ 609.78, subd. 2), which is a gross misdemeanor.