

Subject Prohibiting interference with access to reproductive health services and facilities

Authors Edelson and others

Analyst Ben Johnson (651-296-8957)

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Overview

This bill establishes criminal penalties for actions involving reproductive health services facilities, their employees, and clients. The bill also permits victims and witnesses to seek harassment restraining orders prohibiting alleged offenders from having contact with them.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Interference with access to reproductive health services and facilities.
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Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines the following terms as used in this section: “interfere with,” “intimidate,” “nonviolent,” “physical obstruction,” “reproductive health services,” “reproductive health services client, provider, or assistant,” “reproductive health services facility,” and “violent crime.”

Subd. 2. Injury, intimidation, interference prohibited. Establishes a gross misdemeanor offense for a person who uses force, the threat of force, violent physical obstruction, or nonviolent physical obstruction to intentionally injure, intimidate, or interfere with a person or entity either because the person or entity is a reproductive health services client, provider, or assistant, or to prevent the person or entity from becoming or remaining a reproductive health services client, provider, or assistant.

Subd. 3. Damage to property. Establishes a misdemeanor offense for causing damage to the property of a person, entity, or facility because of the victim’s status as a reproductive health services client, provider, or assistant.

Subd. 4. Use of telephone to disrupt facility. Establishes a gross misdemeanor offense for using, or knowingly allowing another to use, a telephone to intentionally disrupt the normal functioning of a reproductive health services facility.

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Subd. 5. Obstructing access prohibited. Establishes a gross misdemeanor offense for intentionally impeding or interfering with the operation of a motor vehicle attempting to enter, exit, or park at a reproductive health services facility.

Subd. 6. Investigation. Requires preparation of a presentence investigation for individuals convicted of violating any of the offenses listed in subdivisions 2 to 5.

Subd. 7. Restraining order. Asserts that certain individuals who are witnesses or victims may obtain a harassment restraining order against a person who is a party to a proceeding related to a violation of subdivisions 2 to 5.

Subd. 8. Construction. States that nothing in this section of law should be construed to impair constitutionally protected activity, provide exclusive civil or criminal remedies, or interfere with any law regulating termination of pregnancies or the provision of other reproductive health services.



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