

## CHAPTER 2023-194

### Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 67

An act relating to protection of specified personnel; amending s. 836.12, F.S.; providing a definition; requiring a violation to be committed with specified intent; prohibiting specified threats against a justice, judicial assistant, a clerk of court, or clerk personnel or a family member of such person; prohibiting specified harassment of certain personnel with the intent to intimidate or coerce such person to perform or refrain from performing a lawful duty; providing criminal penalties; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 836.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

836.12 Threats or harassment.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Family member” means:

1. An individual related to another individual by blood or marriage; or
2. An individual who stands in loco parentis to another individual.

(b) “Judicial assistant” means a court employee assigned to the office of a specific judge or justice responsible for providing administrative, secretarial, and clerical support to the assigned judge or justice.

~~(c)(b)~~ “Law enforcement officer” means:

1. A law enforcement officer as defined in s. 943.10; or
2. A federal law enforcement officer as defined in s. 901.1505.

(2)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), any person who knowingly and willfully threatens a law enforcement officer, a state attorney, an assistant state attorney, a firefighter, a judge, a justice, a judicial assistant, a clerk of court, clerk personnel, or an elected official, or a family member of any such person persons, with death or serious bodily harm commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(b)(3) A person who commits a second or subsequent violation of paragraph (a) subsection (2) commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(3) Any person who knowingly and willfully harasses a law enforcement officer, a state attorney, an assistant state attorney, a firefighter, a judge, a justice, a judicial assistant, a clerk of court, clerk personnel, or an elected official, with the intent to intimidate or coerce such a person to perform or refrain from performing a lawful duty, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor June 5, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 5, 2023.