
DIGEST

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HB 7 Reengrossed

2019 Regular Session

Dwight

Abstract: Prohibits interference with communications of the state, military or civil defense, or any legal entity created for the purpose of providing utility services to the public.

Proposed law creates the crime of communication interference and defines it as the willful or malicious interference with any communication operated or controlled by the state; used or intended to be used by the military or civil defense functions; or controlled by any legal entity created for the purpose of or engaged in generating, transmitting, providing, and distributing utilities or utility services to the public.

Proposed law provides penalties of a fine of not more than \$10,000, imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than ten years, or both, for a first offense. For a second or subsequent offense, provides penalties of a fine of not more than \$10,000, imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than fifteen years, or both.

Proposed law provides exceptions to the proposed law crime for the following:

- (1) Certain activities performed for purposes of collective bargaining or mutual aid protection, for military or civil defense functions, or for certain private entities provided in proposed law.
- (2) An entity the security issues of which are subject to approval, control, regulation, or supervision by the federal government or any agency thereof under any other federal statute; an entity whose business is subject to regulation by the Federal Communications Commission; or any entity conducting or carrying on its business or operations in two or more states.
- (3) Member-owned electronic cooperatives, municipally owned electric service providers, privately owned utilities, or investor-owned utilities regulated by the La. Public Service Commission or the city council of New Orleans.

(Adds R.S. 14:73.11)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal

Justice to the original bill:

1. Add an exception to the crime for certain entities regulated by the federal government or federal agencies and for certain entities regulated by the La. Public Service Commission or the city council of New Orleans.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Require the term of imprisonment to be served with or without hard labor.