

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 51

BY SENATOR MORRIS

CRIME/PUNISHMENT. Extends applicability of both aggravated and simple obstruction of a highway of commerce to state waters. (8/1/24)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 14:96(A) and 97(A), relative to obstructing highways of commerce; to provide that the crimes of simple and aggravated obstruction of a highway of commerce apply to state waters; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:96(A) and 97(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§96. Aggravated obstruction of a highway of commerce

A. Aggravated obstruction of a highway of commerce is the intentional or criminally negligent placing of anything or performance of any act on any railway, railroad, navigable waterway; **or waters of the state,** road, highway, thoroughfare, or runway of an airport, wherein it is foreseeable that human life might be endangered.

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§97. Simple obstruction of a highway of commerce

A. Simple obstruction of a highway of commerce is the intentional or criminally negligent placing of anything or performance of any act on any railway,

1 railroad, navigable waterway, **or waters of the state**, road, highway, thoroughfare,  
2 or runway of an airport, which will render movement thereon more difficult.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jonathon Wagner.

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DIGEST

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Morris

Present law provides that simple obstruction of a highway of commerce is the intentional or criminally negligent placing of anything or performance of any act on any railway, railroad, navigable waterway, road, highway, thoroughfare, or runway of an airport, which will render movement thereon more difficult.

Present law provides that simple obstruction of a highway of commerce is the intentional or criminally negligent placing of anything or performance of any act on any railway, railroad, navigable waterway, road, highway, thoroughfare, or runway of an airport, wherein it is foreseeable that human life might be endangered.

Proposed law retains present law and makes it applicable to state waters.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 14:96(A) and 97(A))