

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 387

BY SENATOR KLEINPETER

CRIME/PUNISHMENT. Creates the crime of vandalizing, tampering with, or destroying a crime camera system. (8/1/24)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 14:57.1, relative to criminal damage to property; to create the crime of  
3 vandalizing, tampering with, or destroying a crime camera system; to provide for  
4 definitions; to provide for penalties; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 14:57.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 **§57.1. Vandalizing, tampering with, or destroying a crime camera system**

8 **A. It shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally damage a crime**  
9 **camera system by any of the following:**

10 **(1) Causing functional or cosmetic damage to the system.**

11 **(2) Adjusting or modifying the location, position, aim, focus or**  
12 **functionality of the system.**

13 **(3) Tampering with the performance, functions, or features of the**  
14 **system.**

15 **(4) Rendering the system temporarily or permanently inoperable.**

16 **B. For the purposes of this Section, a "crime camera system" includes**  
17 **any camera or license plate reader erected or installed for the purpose of**

1           observing or deterring illegal activity as well as any lights, mounting poles or  
 2           brackets, actuator motors, computer control boards, connection interfaces,  
 3           signage, software, protective housing, lenses, power supply systems, recording  
 4           or battery backups, microphones, data connectivity hardware, or other  
 5           component parts or ancillary equipment necessary for proper functionality and  
 6           operation.

7                   C. Whoever commits the crime of vandalizing, tampering with, or  
 8           destroying a crime camera system shall be imprisoned, with or without hard  
 9           labor, for not more than two years, or may be fined not more than two thousand  
 10           dollars, or both.

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The original instrument was prepared by Jonathon Wagner. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Alden A. Clement, Jr.

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	DIGEST	
SB 387 Engrossed	2024 Regular Session	Kleinpeter

Proposed law provides that a person who intentionally damages a crime camera system by causing functional or cosmetic damage; adjusting or modifying the location, position, aim, focus or functionality; tampering with the performance, functions, or features; or rendering temporarily or permanently inoperable, is guilty of the crime of vandalizing, tampering with, or destroying a crime camera system.

Proposed law provides that a "crime camera system" includes any camera or license plate reader erected or installed for the purpose of observing or deterring illegal activity and includes any lights, mounting poles or brackets, actuator motors, computer control boards, connection interfaces, signage, software, protective housing, lenses, power supply systems, recording or battery backups, microphones, data connectivity hardware, or other component parts or ancillary equipment necessary for proper functionality and operation.

Proposed law provides that a person convicted of the crime of vandalizing, tampering with, or destroying of a crime camera system will be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or may be fined not more than \$2,000, or both.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 14:57.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary C to the original bill

1. Increase maximum imprisonment penalty in proposed law from one year to two years.