

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 424

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAVARD

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Provides with respect to cellular tracking devices

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 15:1302(2) and 1316(C) and to enact R.S. 14:222.3 and R.S.  
3 15:1302(3.1) and (16.1), 1316(D) and (E), 1317, and 1318, relative to electronic  
4 surveillance; to create the crime of unlawful use of a cellular tracking device; to  
5 provide for definitions; to provide for criminal penalties; to provide for exceptions;  
6 to provide for applicability; to provide procedures for use of a cellular tracking  
7 device by law enforcement officers and investigative officers; and to provide for  
8 related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 14:222.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §222.3. Unlawful use of a cellular tracking device; penalty

12 A. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess or use a cellular tracking  
13 device.

14 B. For the purposes of this Section:

15 (1) "Cellular tracking device" means a device that transmits or receives radio  
16 waves for the purpose of conducting one or more of the following operations:

17 (a) Identifying, locating, or tracking the movements of a telecommunications  
18 device.

19 (b) Affecting the hardware or software operations or functions of a  
20 telecommunications device.

1           (c) Forcing transmissions from or connections to a telecommunications  
2           device.

3           (d) Denying, spoofing, or simulating a telecommunications device access to  
4           other communications devices or services including but not limited to an  
5           international mobile subscriber identity catcher or other invasive cell phone or  
6           telephone surveillance or eavesdropping device that mimics a cell phone tower and  
7           sends out signals to cause cellular telephones in the area to transmit their locations,  
8           identifying information, and communications content.

9           (2) "Telecommunications device" means any type of instrument, device, or  
10          machine that is capable of transmitting or receiving telephonic, electronic, radio,  
11          text, or data communications, including but not limited to a cellular telephone, a text-  
12          messaging device, a personal digital assistant, a computer, or any other similar  
13          wireless device that is designed to engage in a call or communicate text or data. It  
14          does not include citizens band radios, citizens band radio hybrids, commercial two-  
15          way radio communication devices, or electronic communication devices with a push-  
16          to-talk function.

17          C. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to any of the following:

18          (1) An investigative or law enforcement officer using a cellular tracking  
19          device in accordance with the Electronic Surveillance Act and pursuant to a court  
20          order as provided for in R.S. 15:1317 and 1318.

21          (2) An operator of a switchboard, or any officer, employee, or agent of any  
22          electronic communications carrier, whose facilities are used in the transmission of  
23          a wire communication, to intercept, disclose, or use that communication in the  
24          normal course of his employment while engaged in any activity which is necessary  
25          to his service or to the protection of the rights or property of the carrier of such  
26          communication; however, such communications common carriers shall not utilize  
27          service observing or random monitoring, except for mechanical or service quality  
28          control checks.

1           (3) An officer, employee, or agent of the Federal Communications  
2           Commission, in the normal course of his employment and in discharge of the  
3           monitoring responsibilities exercised by the commission in the enforcement of  
4           Chapter 5 of Title 47 of the United States Code.

5           D. Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not more  
6           than three thousand dollars, imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than  
7           two years, or both.

8           Section 2. R.S. 15:1302(2) and 1316(C) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
9           15:1302(3.1) and (16.1), 1316(D) and (E), 1317, and 1318 are hereby enacted to read as  
10          follows are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11          §1302. Definitions

12                   As used in this Chapter:

13   \*       \*       \*

14                   (2) "Attorney for a governmental entity" means an attorney on the staff or  
15                   under the direct supervision of the district attorney authorized by law to prosecute  
16                   such offenses as are subject of the pen register, ~~or~~ a trap and trace device, or a  
17                   cellular tracking device.

18   \*       \*       \*

19                   (3.1) "Cellular tracking device" means a device that transmits or receives  
20                   radio waves for the purpose of conducting one or more of the following operations:

21                   (a) Identifying, locating, or tracking the movements of a telecommunications  
22                   device.

23                   (b) Affecting the hardware or software operations or functions of a  
24                   telecommunications device.

25                   (c) Forcing transmissions from or connections to a telecommunications  
26                   device.

27                   (d) Denying, spoofing, or simulating a telecommunications device access to  
28                   other telecommunications devices or services, including but not limited to an  
29                   international mobile subscriber identity catcher or other invasive cell phone or

1 telephone surveillance or eavesdropping device that mimics a cell phone tower and  
2 sends out signals to cause cellular telephones in the area to transmit their locations,  
3 identifying information, and communications content.

4 \* \* \*

5 (16.1) "Telecommunications device" or "communications device" means any  
6 type of instrument, device, or machine that is capable of transmitting or receiving  
7 telephonic, electronic, radio, text, or data communications, including but not limited  
8 to a cellular telephone, a text-messaging device, a personal digital assistant, a  
9 computer, or any other similar wireless device that is designed to engage in a call or  
10 communicate text or data. It does not include citizens band radios, citizens band  
11 radio hybrids, commercial two-way radio communication devices, or electronic  
12 communication devices with a push-to-talk function.

13 \* \* \*

14 §1316. Assistance in installation and use of pen register, ~~or~~ a trap and trace device,  
15 or a cellular tracking device

16 \* \* \*

17 C. Upon the request of an investigative or law enforcement agency  
18 authorized to install and use a cellular tracking device pursuant to this Part, a  
19 provider of a wire or electronic communication service, landlord, custodian, or other  
20 person shall furnish such investigative or law enforcement officer with all  
21 information, facilities, and technical assistance necessary, if applicable, to  
22 accomplish the installation or use of a cellular tracking device unobtrusively and  
23 with minimal interference with the services that the person so ordered by the court  
24 accords the party with respect to whom the installation and use is to take place, if  
25 such assistance is directed by a court order or investigative or law enforcement  
26 agency pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 15:1317 and 1318.

27 ~~E.D.~~ A provider of a wire or electronic communication service, landlord,  
28 custodian, or other person who furnishes facilities or technical assistance pursuant

1 to this Section shall be compensated for such reasonable expenses incurred in  
2 providing such facilities and assistance.

3 ~~D.E.~~ E. No cause of action shall lie in any Louisiana court against any provider  
4 of a wire or electronic communication service, its officers, employees, agents, or  
5 other specified persons for providing information, facilities, or assistance in  
6 accordance with the terms of a court order ~~under~~ pursuant to this Part.

7 §1317. Application for an order for use of a cellular tracking device

8 A. An investigative or law enforcement officer shall not use a cellular  
9 tracking device unless either of the following occur:

10 (1) The investigative or law enforcement agency has obtained an order  
11 issued by a court to use the tracking instrument.

12 (2) Exigent circumstances exist that necessitate using the tracking instrument  
13 without first obtaining a court order.

14 (3) If an investigative or law enforcement agency uses a cellular tracking  
15 device based upon the existence of exigent circumstances, the investigative or law  
16 enforcement agency shall seek to obtain an order issued by a court not later than  
17 seventy-two hours after the initial use of the cellular tracking device.

18 B. An application made pursuant to this Section shall include:

19 (1) The identity of the investigative or law enforcement officer making the  
20 application and the identity of the law enforcement agency conducting the  
21 investigation.

22 (2) A certification by the applicant attesting that the information sought is  
23 relevant to an ongoing felony criminal investigation being conducted by that agency,  
24 and includes in that certification a recital of facts or information constituting the  
25 reasonable suspicion upon which the application is based.

26 §1318. Issuance of an order for a cellular tracking device

27 A. Upon an application made pursuant to R.S. 15:1317, the court may enter  
28 an ex parte order authorizing the use of the cellular tracking device if the court finds  
29 that the investigative or law enforcement officer has certified to the court that the

1 information likely to be obtained by such use is relevant to an ongoing felony  
2 criminal investigation, and that the certification does include reasonable suspicion  
3 as required by R.S. 15:1317.

4 B. An order issued under this Section shall specify, if applicable:

5 (1) The telephone number or other unique subscriber account number  
6 identifying the wire or electronic communications service account used by the device  
7 to which the cellular tracking device is to be attached or used.

8 (2) The physical location, if known, of the device for which the cellular  
9 tracking device is to be attached or used.

10 (3) The type of device to which the cellular tracking device is to be attached  
11 or used.

12 (4) All categories of metadata, data, or information to be collected by the  
13 cellular tracking device from the targeted device including but not limited to  
14 geolocation information.

15 (5) Whether or not the cellular tracking device will incidentally collect  
16 metadata, data, or information from any parties or devices not specified in the court  
17 order, and if so, what categories of information or metadata will be collected.

18 (6) Any disruptions to access or use of a communications or internet access  
19 network that may be created by use of the cellular tracking device.

20 (7) A statement of the offense to which the information is likely to be  
21 obtained by the cellular tracking device.

22 C. An order issued under this Section shall direct, upon request of the  
23 applicant, the furnishing of information, facilities, and technical assistance necessary  
24 to accomplish the use of the cellular tracking device under R.S. 15:1316 and 1317.

25 D.(1) An order issued under this Section shall authorize the use of a cellular  
26 tracking device for a period not to exceed sixty days.

27 (2) Extensions of such an order may be granted, but only upon an application  
28 for an order pursuant to R.S. 15:1317 and upon the judicial finding required by the

1 provisions of this Section. The period of extension shall be for a period not to  
2 exceed sixty days.

3 E. An order authorizing or approving the use of a cellular tracking device  
4 shall direct that:

5 (1) The order be sealed until otherwise ordered by the court.

6 (2) The person who has been ordered by the court to provide assistance to  
7 the applicant not disclose the existence of the cellular tracking device or the  
8 existence of the investigation to the listed subscriber, or to any other person, unless  
9 or until otherwise ordered by the court.

10 F. The head of each law enforcement agency possessing or making  
11 application for the use of a cellular tracking device shall establish and implement  
12 procedures which shall provide for and ensure the following:

13 (1) That only the chief officer of the law enforcement agency or specifically  
14 authorized representative of the agency chief shall have the authority to authorize the  
15 use of a cellular tracking device and only pursuant to R.S. 15:1317 and 1318.

16 (2) That no cellular tracking device in the possession of the law enforcement  
17 agency shall be subject to unauthorized use.

18 G. A law enforcement agency authorized to use a cellular tracking device in  
19 accordance with this Part shall do all of the following, if applicable:

20 (1) Take all steps necessary to limit the collection of any information or  
21 metadata to the target specified in the applicable court order.

22 (2) Take all steps necessary to permanently delete any information or  
23 metadata collected from any party not specified in the applicable court order  
24 immediately following such collection and shall not transmit, use, or retain such  
25 information or metadata for any purpose whatsoever.

26 (3) Delete any information or metadata collected from the target specified  
27 in the court order within thirty-five days if there is no probable cause to support the  
28 belief that such information or metadata is evidence of a crime.

1           H. For the purposes of R.S. 15:1317 and 1318, "investigative or law  
2           enforcement officer" means:

3           (1) Any commissioned officer of the office of state police.

4           (2) Any full-time commissioned city police officer of a municipality of this  
5           state.

6           (3) Any sheriff or a deputy sheriff of a parish of this state which has been  
7           specifically designated by the sheriff of that parish as responsible for preparation of  
8           applications for use of cellular tracking devices.

9           (4) The attorney general, or any assistant attorney general or attorney  
10          general's investigator which has been specifically designated by the attorney general  
11          as responsible for preparation of applications for use of cellular tracking devices.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 424 Original

2015 Regular Session

Havard

**Abstract:** Prohibits the use of a cellular tracking device by anyone except a law enforcement or investigative officer, telecommunication employee, or an FCC employee, and provides procedures for law enforcement to obtain a court order to utilize cellular tracking devices.

Proposed law creates the crime of unlawful use of a cellular tracking device. A cellular tracking device mimics a cell tower providing cell phone services and downloads or copies the personal information of cell phone users. Makes exceptions for law enforcement and investigative officers, telecommunications employees, and FCC employees in the performance of their duties.

Proposed law provides penalties of a fine of not more than \$3,000, imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than two years, or both.

Present law provides procedures for law enforcement and investigative officers to obtain warrants from the court to use a trap and trace device or pen register (wire tapping equipment).

Proposed law retains present law and adds similar provisions for the use of cellular tracking devices.

(Amends 15:1302(2) and 1316(C); Adds R.S. 14:222.3 and R.S. 15:1302(3.1) and (16.1), 1316(D) and (E), 1317, and 1318)