

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST**ACT 215 (HB 227)****2016 Regular Session****Pylant**

Existing law defines the crime of obstruction of justice which includes elements of tampering with evidence, using or threatening force to influence testimony, or retaliating against witnesses, victims, jurors, officers of the court, and other parties. Provides for criminal penalties as follows:

- (1) A fine up to \$100,000, imprisonment for not more than 40 years at hard labor, or both, when the obstruction of justice involves a criminal proceeding in which a sentence of death or life imprisonment may be imposed.
- (2) A fine up to \$50,000, imprisonment for not more than 20 years at hard labor, or both when the obstruction of justice involves a criminal proceeding in which a sentence of imprisonment necessarily at hard labor for any period less than a life sentence may be imposed.
- (3) A fine up to \$10,000, imprisonment for not more than five years, with or without hard labor, or both, when the obstruction of justice involves any other criminal proceeding.

New law adds elements including giving false testimony, or without right or privilege to do so, withholding testimony or being absent despite being served with a subpoena.

Effective August 1, 2016.

(Amends R.S. 14:130.1(A)(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 14:130.1(A)(4))