

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 180

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAGLEY

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 14:338, relative to offenses affecting the public generally; to create the crime
3 of interfering with emergency communication; to provide for elements of the
4 offense; to provide for definitions; to provide criminal penalties; and to provide for
5 related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 14:338 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §338. Interfering with emergency communication

9 A. The crime of interfering with emergency communication is committed
10 when a person disconnects, damages, disables, removes, or uses physical force or
11 intimidation to block access to any telephone or telecommunications device with the
12 specific intent to interfere or prevent an individual from doing any of the following:

- 13 (1) Using a 911 emergency telephone number.
14 (2) Obtaining medical assistance.
15 (3) Making a report to any law enforcement officer.

16 B. Whoever commits the crime of interfering with emergency
17 communication as defined by this Section shall be either fined not more than five
18 hundred dollars, imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

19 C. For the purposes of this Section:

20 (1) "Law enforcement officer" shall include commissioned police officers,
21 state police officers, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, marshals, deputy marshals, correctional
22 officers, constables, wildlife enforcement agents, and probation and parole officers.

23 (2) "Telecommunications device" shall mean any type of instrument, device,
24 or machine that is capable of transmitting or receiving telephonic, electronic, radio,

1 text, or data communications, including but not limited to a cellular telephone, a
2 text-messaging device, a personal digital assistant, a computer, or any other similar
3 wireless device that is designed to engage in a call or communicate text or data.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____