

HB293 INTRODUCED



1 HB293
2 5VGDB6M-1
3 By Representative Givan
4 RFD: Judiciary
5 First Read: 20-Jan-26



4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, a person commits the crime
6 of harassment if he or she touches another individual
7 or directs obscene or abusive language or gestures
8 toward another individual with intent to harass, annoy,
9 or alarm.

10 Under existing law, a person commits the crime
11 of harassing communications if he or she communicates
12 in a manner likely to harass or cause alarm, makes a
13 telephone call with no legitimate purpose, or
14 telephones another individual and uses lewd or obscene
15 language with intent to harass or alarm.

16 This bill would provide that a person who
17 commits harassment or harassing communications where
18 the victim is a public official commits a Class B
19 misdemeanor.

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22 A BILL
23 TO BE ENTITLED
24 AN ACT

25
26 Relating to crimes and offenses; to amend Section
27 13A-11-8, Code of Alabama 1975; to further provide for the
28 crimes of harassment and harassing communications.



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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 13A-11-8, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§13A-11-8

(a) (1) ~~HARASSMENT.~~ A person commits the crime of harassment if, with intent to harass, annoy, or alarm another ~~person~~individual, he or she ~~either~~does either of the following:

a. Strikes, shoves, kicks, or otherwise touches ~~a person~~any individual or subjects ~~him or her~~any individual to physical contact.

b. Directs abusive or obscene language or makes an obscene gesture ~~towards~~toward another ~~person~~individual.

(2) For purposes of this section, harassment shall include a threat, verbal or nonverbal, made with the intent to carry out the threat, that would cause a reasonable ~~person~~individual who is the target of the threat to fear for his or her safety.

(3) Harassment is a Class C misdemeanor.

(b) (1) ~~HARASSING COMMUNICATIONS.~~ A person commits the crime of harassing communications if, with intent to harass or alarm another ~~person~~individual, he or she does any of the following:

a. Communicates with ~~a person~~any individual, anonymously or otherwise, by telephone, telegraph, mail, or any other form of written or electronic communication, in a manner likely to harass or cause alarm.

b. Makes a telephone call, whether or not a



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57 conversation ensues, with no purpose of legitimate
58 communication.

59 c. Telephones another ~~person~~ individual and addresses
60 to or about ~~such~~ the other ~~person~~ individual any lewd or
61 obscene words or language.

62 ~~Nothing in this section shall apply to legitimate~~
63 ~~business telephone communications.~~

64 (2) Harassing communications is a Class C misdemeanor.

65 (c) If a person commits a violation of subsection (a)
66 or (b), and the victim is a public official, as defined in
67 Section 36-25-1, the person is guilty of a Class B
68 misdemeanor.

69 (d) Nothing in this section shall apply to legitimate
70 business telephone communications."

71 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
72 1, 2026.