

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 HOUSE BILL 1597

By: George

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to crimes and punishments; defining  
8 terms; making certain acts unlawful; providing  
9 penalties; providing for codification; and providing  
an effective date.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

11 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 540D of Title 21, unless there  
13 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 A. As used in this section:

15 1. "First responder" shall include a peace officer as defined  
16 in Section 99 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, a correctional  
17 or probation and parole officer, and an emergency medical technician  
18 or emergency medical care provider; and

19 2. "Harass" means to willfully engage in a course of conduct  
20 directed at a first responder which intentionally causes substantial  
21 emotional distress in that first responder and serves no legitimate  
22 purpose.

1       B. It shall be unlawful for a person, after receiving a verbal  
2 warning not to approach from a person he or she knows or reasonably  
3 should know is a first responder, who is engaged in the lawful  
4 performance of a legal duty, to knowingly and willfully violate such  
5 warning and approach or remain within twenty-five (25) feet of the  
6 first responder with the intent to:

- 7           1. Impede or interfere with the ability of the first responder  
8 to perform such duty;
- 9           2. Threaten the first responder with physical harm; or
- 10          3. Harass the first responder.

11       C. Any person who violates the provisions of this section  
12 shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by  
13 imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed one (1)  
14 year, or by a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00),  
15 or by both such fine and imprisonment.

16       SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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18       60-1-10034       GRS       01/02/25