

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**
2 April 22, 2025

3 ENGROSSED HOUSE
4 BILL NO. 1597

By: George of the House

5 and
6 Weaver of the Senate
7

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

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

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

16 A. As used in this section:

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

21 2. "Harass" means to willfully engage in a course of conduct
22 directed at a first responder which intentionally distracts the
23 first responder from performing his or her official duties and
24 serves no legitimate 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.

17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
April 22, 2025 - DO PASS