

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                   1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
5 HOUSE BILL NO. 1597

By: George of the House

6                   and

7                   Weaver of the Senate

10                  COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11                  An Act relating to crimes and punishments; defining  
12                  terms; making certain acts unlawful; providing  
13                  penalties; providing for codification; and providing  
14                  an effective date.

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

16                  SECTION 1.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified

17                  in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 540D of Title 21, unless there  
18                  is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19                  A. As used in this section:

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

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

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

- 11           1. Impede or interfere with the ability of the first responder  
12 to perform such duty;
- 13           2. Threaten the first responder with physical harm; or
- 14           3. Harass the first responder.

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

20           SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.  
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22 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
OVERSIGHT, dated 02/26/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended.  
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