

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1964

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HOVIS.

4690H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To repeal section 575.270, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the offense of tampering with a witness or victim, with penalty provisions.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 575.270, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 575.270, to read as follows:

575.270. 1. A person commits the offense of tampering with a witness or victim if:

(1) With the purpose to induce a witness or a prospective witness to disobey a subpoena or other legal process, absent himself or herself, avoid subpoena or other legal process, withhold evidence, information, or documents, or testify falsely, he or she:

(a) Threatens or causes harm to any person or property; or

(b) Uses force, threats or deception; or

(c) Offers, confers or agrees to confer any benefit, direct or indirect, upon such witness;

or

(d) Conveys any of the foregoing to another in furtherance of a conspiracy; or

(2) He or she purposely prevents or dissuades or attempts to prevent or dissuade any person who has been a victim of any crime or a person who is acting on behalf of any such victim from:

(a) Making any report of such victimization to any peace officer, state, local or federal law enforcement officer, prosecuting agency, or judge;

(b) Causing a complaint, indictment or information to be sought and prosecuted or assisting in the prosecution thereof;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 (c) Arresting or causing or seeking the arrest of any person in connection with such  
18 victimization.

19 2. The offense of tampering with a witness or victim is a class A misdemeanor, unless  
20 the original charge is a **class B, C, D, or E** felony, in which case tampering with a witness or  
21 victim is a class D felony. **If the original charge is a class A felony, the offense of tampering**  
22 **with a witness or victim is a class C felony.** Persons convicted under this section shall not be  
23 eligible for parole.

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