



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

---

## Bill Analysis

Jeff Hobday

### **H.B. 276**

132nd General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps.** Rezabek and Greenspan, Hambley, Perales, Henne, Huffman, Koehler, Lipps, Antani

---

### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Enhances the penalty for aggravated menacing if the offender knows or has reasonable cause to know the victim is a utility worker and the offender threatens the worker with a deadly weapon with intent to obstruct the operation of a utility.
- 

### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

#### **Aggravated menacing of a utility worker**

The bill enhances the penalty for aggravated menacing from a first degree misdemeanor to a fourth degree felony when the victim is a utility worker and all of the following conditions apply:<sup>1</sup>

(1) The offender knows or has reasonable cause to know the victim is a utility worker;

(2) The victim is engaged in the performance of the victim's duties as a utility worker;

(3) The offender threatens the victim with a deadly weapon with intent to obstruct the operation of a utility.

The bill defines "utility worker" as an employee of a person or entity whose primary responsibility is the operation or maintenance of a utility. "Utility" is defined as an enterprise that provides gas, electric, steam, water, sewage, transportation,

---

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 2903.21(B)(3).

communication services, or cable and broadband services, whether publicly or privately owned.<sup>2</sup>

Under current law, unchanged by the bill, a person is guilty of aggravated menacing if the person knowingly causes another to believe that the offender will cause serious physical harm to the other person's person or property, the other person's unborn, or a member of the other person's immediate family. The other person's fear of harm may be based on words or conduct of the offender that are directed at or identify a corporation, association, or other organization that employs the other person or to which the other person belongs.<sup>3</sup>

---

## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	06-14-17

H0276-I-132.docx/ks

---

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 2903.21(C)(2) and (3).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 2903.21(A).

