

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 20**

**Representatives Hall, T., Plummer**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 2903.22 and to enact section 1  
2927.31 of the Revised Code to prohibit a person 2  
from knowingly harassing or impeding an 3  
emergency service responder who is engaged in 4  
the lawful performance of a legal duty and to 5  
clarify that heightened penalties apply for 6  
menacing a probation officer. 7

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 2903.22 be amended and section 8  
2927.31 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 9

**Sec. 2903.22.** (A) (1) No person shall knowingly cause 10  
another to believe that the offender will cause physical harm to 11  
the person or property of the other person, the other person's 12  
unborn, or a member of the other person's immediate family. In 13  
addition to any other basis for the other person's belief that 14  
the offender will cause physical harm to the person or property 15  
of the other person, the other person's unborn, or a member of 16  
the other person's immediate family, the other person's belief 17  
may be based on words or conduct of the offender that are 18  
directed at or identify a corporation, association, or other 19

organization that employs the other person or to which the other person belongs. 20  
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(2) No person shall knowingly place or attempt to place another in reasonable fear of physical harm or death by displaying a deadly weapon, regardless of whether the deadly weapon displayed is operable or inoperable, if either of the following applies: 22  
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(a) The other person is an emergency service responder, the person knows or reasonably should know that the other person is an emergency service responder, and it is the person's specific purpose to engage in the specified conduct against an emergency service responder. 27  
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(b) The other person is a family or household member or co-worker of an emergency service responder, the person knows or reasonably should know that the other person is a family or household member or co-worker of an emergency service responder, and it is the person's specific purpose to engage in the specified conduct against a family or household member or co-worker of an emergency service responder. 32  
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(B) Whoever violates this section is guilty of menacing. 39

Except as otherwise provided in this division, menacing is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If the victim of the offense is an officer or employee of a public children services agency or a private child placing agency and the offense relates to the officer's or employee's performance or anticipated performance of official responsibilities or duties or if the victim of the offense is an emergency service responder in the performance of the responder's official duties, menacing is one of the following: 40  
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(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (B) (2) of 49  
this section, a misdemeanor of the first degree; 50

(2) If the offender previously has been convicted of or 51  
pleaded guilty to an offense of violence, the victim of that 52  
prior offense was an officer or employee of a public children 53  
services agency or private child placing agency or an emergency 54  
service responder, and that prior offense related to the 55  
officer's or employee's performance or anticipated performance 56  
of official responsibilities or duties or to the responder's 57  
performance of the responder's official duties, a felony of the 58  
fourth degree. 59

(C) A prosecution for a violation of this section does not 60  
preclude a prosecution of a violation of any other section of 61  
the Revised Code. One or more acts, a series of acts, or a 62  
course of behavior that can be prosecuted under this section or 63  
any other section of the Revised Code may be prosecuted under 64  
this section, the other section of the Revised Code, or both 65  
sections. However, if an offender is convicted of or pleads 66  
guilty to a violation of this section and also is convicted of 67  
or pleads guilty to a violation of section 2903.13 of the 68  
Revised Code based on the same conduct involving the same victim 69  
that was the basis of the violation of this section, the two 70  
offenses are allied offenses of similar import under section 71  
2941.25 of the Revised Code. 72

(D) As used in this section: 73

(1) "Emergency service responder," "family has the same 74  
meaning as in section 2903.13 of the Revised Code and also 75  
includes a probation officer. 76

(2) "Family or household member," and "co-worker" have the 77

same meanings as in section 2903.13 of the Revised Code. 78

~~(2)~~(3) "Organization" includes an entity that is a 79  
governmental employer. 80

(4) "Probation officer" means a probation officer 81  
appointed by a municipal court under section 1901.33 of the 82  
Revised Code, a probation officer appointed by a county court 83  
under section 1907.201 of the Revised Code, and a probation 84  
officer appointed by a court of common pleas under section 85  
2301.27 of the Revised Code. 86

**Sec. 2927.31.** (A) As used in this section: 87

(1) "Emergency service responder" has the same meaning as 88  
in section 2903.22 of the Revised Code. 89

(2) "Harass" means either of the following: 90

(a) To engage in a course of conduct to which all of the 91  
following apply: 92

(i) It is directed at an emergency service responder. 93

(ii) It causes substantial emotional distress to the 94  
emergency service responder. 95

(iii) It interferes with the emergency service responder 96  
lawfully performing a legal duty. 97

(b) To interrupt, disrupt, hinder, impede, or interfere 98  
with an emergency service responder's ability to lawfully 99  
perform a legal duty. 100

(B) No person shall knowingly harass an emergency service 101  
responder who is engaged in the lawful performance of a legal 102  
duty when both of the following circumstances apply: 103

(1) The person received a warning from the emergency 104

service responder not to approach. 105

(2) The person approached or remained within fourteen feet 106  
of the emergency service responder after receipt of the warning 107  
under division (B)(1) of this section. 108

(C) Whoever violates division (B) of this section is 109  
guilty of harassing an emergency service responder. Harassing an 110  
emergency service responder is a misdemeanor of the first 111  
degree. 112

**Section 2.** That existing section 2903.22 of the Revised 113  
Code is hereby repealed. 114