

HOUSE BILL No. 2071

AN ACT concerning crimes, punishment and criminal procedure; relating to crimes against persons; increasing criminal penalties for stalking a minor; amending K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 21-5427 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 21-5427 is hereby amended to read as follows: 21-5427. (a) Stalking is:

(1) Recklessly engaging in a course of conduct targeted at a specific person which would cause a reasonable person in the circumstances of the targeted person to fear for such person's safety, or the safety of a member of such person's immediate family and the targeted person is actually placed in such fear;

(2) engaging in a course of conduct targeted at a specific person with knowledge that the course of conduct will place the targeted person in fear for such person's safety or the safety of a member of such person's immediate family;~~or~~

(3) after being served with, or otherwise provided notice of, any protective order included in K.S.A. 21-3843, prior to its repeal or K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 21-5924, and amendments thereto, that prohibits contact with a targeted person, recklessly engaging in at least one act listed in subsection (f)(1) that violates the provisions of the order and would cause a reasonable person to fear for such person's safety, or the safety of a member of such person's immediate family and the targeted person is actually placed in such fear; *or*

(4) *intentionally engaging in a course of conduct targeted at a specific child under the age of 14 that would cause a reasonable person in the circumstances of the targeted child, or a reasonable person in the circumstances of an immediate family member of such child, to fear for such child's safety.*

(b) Stalking as defined in:

(1) Subsection (a)(1) is a:

(A) Class A person misdemeanor, except as provided in subsection (b)(1)(B); and

(B) severity level 7, person felony upon a second or subsequent conviction;

(2) subsection (a)(2) is a:

(A) Class A person misdemeanor, except as provided in subsection (b)(2)(B); and

(B) severity level 5, person felony upon a second or subsequent conviction;~~and~~

(3) subsection (a)(3) is a:

(A) Severity level 9, person felony, except as provided in subsection (b)(3)(B); and

(B) severity level 5, person felony, upon a second or subsequent conviction; *and*

(4) *subsection (a)(4) is a:*

(A) *Severity level 7, person felony, except as provided in subsection (b)(4)(B); and*

(B) *severity level 4, person felony, upon a second or subsequent conviction.*

(c) For the purposes of this section, a person served with a protective order as defined by K.S.A. 21-3843, prior to its repeal or K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 21-5924, and amendments thereto, or a person who engaged in acts which would constitute stalking, after having been advised by a law enforcement officer, that such person's actions were in violation of this section, shall be presumed to have acted knowingly as to any like future act targeted at the specific person or persons named in the order or as advised by the officer.

(d) In a criminal proceeding under this section, a person claiming an exemption, exception or exclusion has the burden of going forward with evidence of the claim.

(e) The present incarceration of a person alleged to be violating this section shall not be a bar to prosecution under this section.

(f) As used in this section:

(1) "Course of conduct" means two or more acts over a period of time, however short, which evidence a continuity of purpose. A course of conduct shall not include constitutionally protected activity nor conduct that was necessary to accomplish a legitimate purpose independent of making contact with the targeted person. A course of conduct shall include, but not be limited to, any of the following acts or a combination thereof:

(A) Threatening the safety of the targeted person or a member of such person's immediate family;

(B) following, approaching or confronting the targeted person or a member of such person's immediate family;

(C) appearing in close proximity to, or entering the targeted person's residence, place of employment, school or other place where such person can be found, or the residence, place of employment or school of a member of such person's immediate family;

(D) causing damage to the targeted person's residence or property or that of a member of such person's immediate family;

(E) placing an object on the targeted person's property or the property of a member of such person's immediate family, either directly or through a third person;

(F) causing injury to the targeted person's pet or a pet belonging to a member of such person's immediate family;

(G) any act of communication;

(2) "communication" means to impart a message by any method of transmission, including, but not limited to: Telephoning, personally delivering, sending or having delivered, any information or material by written or printed note or letter, package, mail, courier service or electronic transmission, including electronic transmissions generated or communicated via a computer;

(3) "computer" means a programmable, electronic device capable of accepting and processing data;

(4) "conviction" includes being convicted of a violation of K.S.A. 21-3438, prior to its repeal, this section or a law of another state which prohibits the acts that this section prohibits; and

(5) "immediate family" means father, mother, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, spouse or grandparent of the targeted person; any person residing in the household of the targeted person; or any person involved in an intimate relationship with the targeted person.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 21-5427 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Kansas register.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the House, and passed that body

HOUSE concurred in
SENATE amendments _____

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

Passed the SENATE
as amended _____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.

APPROVED _____

Governor.