

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1942

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE VESCOVO.

4310H.04I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 575.040, 575.050, 575.160, 575.270, 575.280, and 576.030, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof six new sections relating to offenses committed against a body of the general assembly, with penalty provisions.

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

Section A. Sections 575.040, 575.050, 575.160, 575.270, 575.280, and 576.030, RSMo, are repealed and six new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 575.040, 575.050, 575.160, 575.270, 575.280, and 576.030, to read as follows:

575.040. 1. A person commits the offense of perjury if, with the purpose to deceive, he or she knowingly testifies falsely to any material fact upon oath or affirmation legally administered, in any official proceeding before any court, public body, notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths.

2. A fact is material, regardless of its admissibility under rules of evidence, if it could substantially affect, or did substantially affect, the course or outcome of the cause, matter or proceeding.

3. Knowledge of the materiality of the statement is not an element of this crime, and it is no defense that:

(1) The person mistakenly believed the fact to be immaterial; or

(2) The person was not competent, for reasons other than mental disability or immaturity, to make the statement.

4. It is a defense to a prosecution under subsection 1 of this section that the person retracted the false statement in the course of the official proceeding in which it was made provided he or she did so before the falsity of the statement was exposed. Statements made in

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.

16 separate hearings at separate stages of the same proceeding, including but not limited to
17 statements made before a grand jury, at a preliminary hearing, at a deposition or at previous trial,
18 are made in the course of the same proceeding.

19 5. The defendant shall have the burden of injecting the issue of retraction under
20 subsection 4 of this section.

21 6. The offense of perjury committed in any proceeding not involving a felony charge is
22 a class E felony.

23 7. The offense of perjury committed in any proceeding involving a felony charge is a
24 class D felony unless:

25 (1) It is committed during a criminal trial for the purpose of securing the conviction of
26 an accused for any felony except murder, in which case it is a class B felony; or

27 (2) It is committed during a criminal trial for the purpose of securing the conviction of
28 an accused for murder, in which case it is a class A felony.

29 **8. The offense of perjury committed in any proceeding before a body of the general**
30 **assembly is a class D felony.**

 575.050. 1. A person commits the offense of making a false affidavit if, with purpose
2 to mislead any person, he or she, in any affidavit, swears falsely to a fact which is material to the
3 purpose for which said affidavit is made.

4 2. The provisions of subsections 2 and 3 of section 575.040 shall apply to prosecutions
5 under subsection 1 of this section.

6 3. It is a defense to a prosecution under subsection 1 of this section that the person
7 retracted the false statement by affidavit or testimony but this defense shall not apply if the
8 retraction was made after:

9 (1) The falsity of the statement was exposed; or

10 (2) Any person took substantial action in reliance on the statement.

11 4. The defendant shall have the burden of injecting the issue of retraction under
12 subsection 3 of this section.

13 5. The offense of making a false affidavit is a class C misdemeanor, unless done for the
14 purpose of misleading a public servant in the performance of his or her duty, in which case it is
15 a class A misdemeanor.

16 **6. The offense of making a false affidavit when done in any proceeding before a**
17 **body of the general assembly is a class E felony.**

 575.160. 1. A person commits the offense of interference with legal process if, knowing
2 another person is authorized by law to serve process, he or she interferes with or obstructs such
3 person for the purpose of preventing such person from effecting the service of any process.

4 2. "Process" includes any writ, summons, subpoena, warrant other than an arrest warrant,
5 or other process or order of a court **or public body**.

6 3. The offense of interference with legal process is a class B misdemeanor.

7 **4. The offense of interference with legal process is a class E felony if the process is**
8 **a subpoena issued by the house of representatives or senate.**

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

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

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

6 (b) Uses force, threats or deception; or

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

8 or

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

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

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

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

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 felony **or the witness is a witness in a proceeding before a body of the**
21 **general assembly**, in which case tampering with a witness or victim is a class D felony. Persons
22 convicted under this section shall not be eligible for parole.

 575.280. 1. A person commits the offense of acceding to corruption if he or she:

2 (1) Is a judge, juror, special master, referee or arbitrator and knowingly solicits, accepts,
3 or agrees to accept any benefit, direct or indirect, on the representation or understanding that it
4 will influence his or her official action in a judicial proceeding pending in any court or before
5 such official or juror;

6 (2) Is a witness or prospective witness in any official proceeding and knowingly solicits,
7 accepts, or agrees to accept any benefit, direct or indirect, on the representation or understanding
8 that he or she will disobey a subpoena or other legal process, absent himself or herself, avoid
9 subpoena or other legal process, withhold evidence, information or documents, or testify falsely.

10 2. The offense of acceding to corruption under subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of this
11 section is a class C felony. The offense of acceding to corruption under subdivision (2) of
12 subsection 1 of this section in a felony prosecution [ø], on the representation or understanding
13 of testifying falsely, **or in a proceeding before a body of the general assembly** is a class D
14 felony. Otherwise acceding to corruption is a class A misdemeanor.

576.030. 1. A person commits the offense of obstructing government operations if he
2 or she purposely obstructs, impairs, hinders or perverts the performance of a governmental
3 function by the use or threat of **harm, intimidation, coercion**, violence, force, or other physical
4 interference or obstacle.

5 2. The offense of obstructing government operations is a class B misdemeanor, **unless**
6 **committed against a body of the general assembly, in which case it is a class E felony.**

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