

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to intimidation of a judge; subjecting a  
 3           person who intimidates or threatens a judge or a member of  
 4           the judge's immediate family to criminal penalties under  
 5           certain circumstances; defining the terms "intimidation or  
 6           threats" and "judge"; providing an effective date.

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 8   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 10           Section 1. Intimidation of a judge.-

11           (1) A person who has a significant interest in a legal or  
 12 administrative proceeding and who knowingly attempts to alter or  
 13 affect a decision or ruling through intimidation or threats  
 14 commits:

15           (a) A misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as  
 16 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, Florida Statutes, if:

- 17           1. The underlying proceeding is a civil or administrative  
 18 proceeding or the prosecution of a misdemeanor; or  
 19           2. The offender is acting on behalf of another person who  
 20 is a party to the proceeding.

21           (b) A felony of the third degree, punishable as provided  
 22 in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, Florida Statutes, if  
 23 the underlying proceeding is the prosecution of a felony.

24           (2) For purposes of this section:

25           (a) "Intimidation or threats" include, but are not limited  
 26 to, actions or words that:

- 27           1. Directly or indirectly threaten physical force,  
 28 economic loss, damage to property, damage to career, or damage

29 to the reputation of a judge or a member of the judge's  
 30 immediate family;

31 2. Are intended to create a situation requiring recusal or  
 32 disqualification of a judge; or

33 3. Consist of contacts or attempts to contact or that  
 34 create a pattern of contact with a judge or a member of the  
 35 judge's immediate family under false pretenses which would  
 36 reasonably cause a judge or a member of the judge's immediate  
 37 family to fear for his or her safety.

38 (b) "Judge" means:

39 1. A judge or justice authorized by the State  
 40 Constitution.

41 2. An administrative hearing officer.

42 3. An administrative law judge.

43 4. A magistrate.

44 5. An officer of the state acting in an adjudicatory  
 45 capacity.

46 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2011.