

By Senator Avila

39-00575A-23

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to impeding, provoking, or harassing
 3 first responders; creating s. 843.31, F.S.; defining
 4 the term "first responder"; prohibiting any person
 5 from approaching a first responder or remaining within
 6 a specified distance of such first responder, with
 7 specified intent, after receiving a warning not to
 8 approach; providing criminal penalties; providing an
 9 effective date.

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

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 13 Section 1. Section 843.31, Florida Statutes, is created to
 14 read:

15 843.31 Approaching a first responder after a warning with
 16 intent to impede, provoke, or harass.-

17 (1) As used in this section, the term "first responder"
 18 includes a law enforcement officer as defined in s. 943.10(1), a
 19 firefighter as defined in s. 784.07, and an emergency medical
 20 care provider as defined in s. 784.07.

21 (2) (a) It is unlawful for any person, after receiving a
 22 warning from a first responder not to approach, to violate such
 23 warning and approach or remain within 30 feet of a first
 24 responder who is engaged in the lawful performance of any legal
 25 or emergent duty, with the intent to:

26 1. Interrupt, disrupt, hinder, impede, or interfere with
 27 the first responder's ability to perform such duty;

28 2. Provoke a physical response from the first responder; or

29 3. Directly or indirectly harass the first responder or

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30 make so much noise that a first responder is prevented from
31 performing their official duties or providing medical aid.

32 (b) A person who violates this subsection commits a
33 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.
34 775.082 or s. 775.083.

35 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2023.