

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to impeding, provoking, or harassing
 3 law enforcement officers; creating s. 843.31, F.S.;
 4 providing definitions; prohibiting approaching a law
 5 enforcement officer or remaining within a specified
 6 distance of such officer with specified intent after
 7 receiving a warning not to approach; providing
 8 criminal penalties; providing an effective date.

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

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

14 843.31 Approaching a law enforcement officer after a
 15 warning with intent to impede, provoke, or harass.-

16 (1) As used in this section, the term:

17 (a) "Harass" means to engage in a course of conduct
 18 directed at a law enforcement officer which causes substantial
 19 emotional distress to that law enforcement officer and serves no
 20 legitimate purpose.

21 (b) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as in
 22 s. 943.10(1).

23 (2)(a) It is unlawful for a person, after receiving a
 24 warning not to approach from a law enforcement officer who is
 25 engaged in the lawful performance of a legal duty, to violate

26 such warning and approach or remain within 20 feet of the law
 27 enforcement officer with the intent to:

28 1. Interrupt, disrupt, hinder, impede, or interfere with
 29 the law enforcement officer's ability to perform such duty;

30 2. Threaten the law enforcement officer with physical
 31 harm; or

32 3. Harass the law enforcement officer or make so much
 33 noise that the law enforcement officer is prevented from
 34 performing his or her official duties.

35 (b) A person who violates this subsection commits a
 36 misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.
 37 775.082 or s. 775.083.

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