

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to tampering with, harassing, or  
 3           retaliating against court officials; amending s.  
 4           918.12, F.S.; defining the term "court official";  
 5           defining the offenses of tampering with or harassing  
 6           court officials; providing criminal penalties;  
 7           providing that no state of mind need be proved with  
 8           respect to specified circumstances; creating s.  
 9           918.125, F.S.; prohibiting specified conduct with  
 10          retaliatory intent toward court officials; providing  
 11          criminal penalties; amending ss. 772.102, 895.02, and  
 12          921.0022, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made  
 13          by the act; providing an effective date.

14  
 15   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16  
 17           **Section 1.   Section 918.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to**  
 18   **read:**

19           918.12   Tampering with or harassing court officials  
 20   ~~jurors.~~

21           (1) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term "court  
 22   official" means any judge, magistrate judge, grand juror, petit  
 23   juror, clerk, deputy clerk, judicial assistant, attorney,  
 24   bailiff or court deputy.

25           (2) (a) TAMPERING.—A person who knowingly:

- 26        1. Uses intimidation or physical force;  
 27        2. Threatens any person, or attempts to do so;  
 28        3. Engages in misleading conduct toward any person; or  
 29        4. Offers pecuniary benefit or gain to any person,  
 30  
 31 with intent to cause or induce any court official to obstruct  
 32 the administration of justice or affect the outcome of an  
 33 official investigation or official proceeding, commits the crime  
 34 of tampering with a court official.  
 35        (b) Tampering with a court official is a:  
 36        1. Felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in  
 37 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, in which the official  
 38 investigation or official proceeding affected involves the  
 39 investigation or prosecution of a misdemeanor or any noncriminal  
 40 matter pending in county court.  
 41        2. Felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in  
 42 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, in which the official  
 43 investigation or official proceeding affected involves the  
 44 investigation or prosecution of a third degree felony or any  
 45 noncriminal matter pending in circuit court.  
 46        3. Felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in  
 47 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, in which the official  
 48 investigation or official proceeding affected involves the  
 49 investigation or prosecution of a second degree felony.  
 50        4. Felony of the first degree, punishable by a term of

51 years not exceeding life or as provided in s. 775.082, s.  
52 775.083, or s. 775.084, in which the official investigation or  
53 official proceeding affected involves the investigation or  
54 prosecution of a first degree felony or a first degree felony  
55 punishable by a term of years not exceeding life.

56 5. Life felony, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s.  
57 775.083, or s. 775.084, in which the official investigation or  
58 official proceeding affected involves the investigation or  
59 prosecution of a life or capital felony.

60 6. Felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in  
61 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, in which the offense  
62 level of the affected official investigation or official  
63 proceeding is indeterminable.

64 (3) (a) HARASSING.—Whoever intentionally harasses a court  
65 official and thereby hinders, delays, prevents, or dissuades any  
66 court official from:

67 1. Attending an official proceeding;  
68 2. Rendering a fair verdict based solely upon the evidence  
69 produced at an official proceeding and the law; or  
70 3. Following the rules of juror behavior and deliberation  
71 as set forth by the judge,

72  
73 or attempts to do so, commits the crime of harassing a court  
74 official.

75 (b) Harassing a court official is a:

76 1. Misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided  
77 in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, in which the official investigation  
78 or official proceeding affected involves the investigation or  
79 prosecution of a misdemeanor or any noncriminal matter pending  
80 in county court.

81 2. Felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in  
82 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, in which the official  
83 investigation or official proceeding affected involves the  
84 investigation or prosecution of a third degree felony or any  
85 noncriminal matter pending in circuit court.

86 3. Felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in  
87 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, in which the official  
88 investigation or official proceeding affected involves the  
89 investigation or prosecution of a second degree felony.

90 4. Felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in  
91 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, in which the official  
92 investigation or official proceeding affected involves the  
93 investigation or prosecution of a first degree felony.

94 5. Felony of the first degree, punishable by a term of  
95 years not exceeding life or as provided in s. 775.082, s.  
96 775.083, or s. 775.084, in which the official investigation or  
97 official proceeding affected involves the investigation or  
98 prosecution of a felony of the first degree punishable by a term  
99 of years not exceeding life or a prosecution of a life or  
100 capital felony.

101 6. Felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in  
102 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, in which the offense  
103 level of the affected official investigation or official  
104 proceeding is indeterminable.

105 (4) STATE OF MIND.—In a prosecution for an offense under  
106 this section, no state of mind need be proved with respect to  
107 the circumstance:

108 (a) That the official proceeding before a judge, court,  
109 grand jury, or government agency is before a judge or court of  
110 the state, a state or local grand jury, or a state agency; or

111 (b) That the judge is a judge of the state or that the law  
112 enforcement officer is an officer or employee of the state or a  
113 person authorized to act for or on behalf of the state or  
114 serving the state as an adviser or consultant ~~Any person who~~  
115 ~~influences the judgment or decision of any grand or petit juror~~  
116 ~~on any matter, question, cause, or proceeding which may be~~  
117 ~~pending, or which may by law be brought, before him or her as~~  
118 ~~such juror, with intent to obstruct the administration of~~  
119 ~~justice, shall be guilty of a felony of the third degree,~~  
120 ~~punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.~~

121 **Section 2. Section 918.125, Florida Statutes, is created**  
122 **to read:**

123 918.125 Retaliation against a court official.—

124 (1) As used in this section, the term "court official" has  
125 the same meaning as in s. 918.12.

126        (2) A person who knowingly engages in any conduct that  
 127        causes bodily injury to another person or damages the tangible  
 128        property of another person, or threatens to do so, with intent  
 129        to retaliate against a court official as defined in 918.12 for  
 130        the court official's participation in an official investigation  
 131        or official proceeding:

132        (a) Commits a felony in the third degree, punishable as  
 133        provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084; or

134        (b) If the conduct results in bodily injury, such person  
 135        commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in  
 136        s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

137        **Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section**  
 138        **772.102, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

139        772.102 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

140        (1) "Criminal activity" means to commit, to attempt to  
 141        commit, to conspire to commit, or to solicit, coerce, or  
 142        intimidate another person to commit:

143        (a) Any crime that is chargeable by indictment or  
 144        information under the following provisions:

145        1. Section 210.18, relating to evasion of payment of  
 146        cigarette taxes.

147        2. Section 414.39, relating to public assistance fraud.

148        3. Section 440.105 or s. 440.106, relating to workers'  
 149        compensation.

150        4. Part IV of chapter 501, relating to telemarketing.

- 151           5. Chapter 517, relating to securities transactions.
- 152           6. Section 550.235 or s. 550.3551, relating to dogracing  
153 and horseracing.
- 154           7. Chapter 550, relating to jai alai frontons.
- 155           8. Chapter 552, relating to the manufacture, distribution,  
156 and use of explosives.
- 157           9. Chapter 562, relating to beverage law enforcement.
- 158           10. Section 624.401, relating to transacting insurance  
159 without a certificate of authority, s. 624.437(4)(c)1., relating  
160 to operating an unauthorized multiple-employer welfare  
161 arrangement, or s. 626.902(1)(b), relating to representing or  
162 aiding an unauthorized insurer.
- 163           11. Chapter 687, relating to interest and usurious  
164 practices.
- 165           12. Section 721.08, s. 721.09, or s. 721.13, relating to  
166 real estate timeshare plans.
- 167           13. Chapter 782, relating to homicide.
- 168           14. Chapter 784, relating to assault and battery.
- 169           15. Chapter 787, relating to kidnapping or human  
170 trafficking.
- 171           16. Chapter 790, relating to weapons and firearms.
- 172           17. Former s. 796.03, s. 796.04, s. 796.05, or s. 796.07,  
173 relating to prostitution.
- 174           18. Chapter 806, relating to arson.
- 175           19. Section 810.02(2)(c), relating to specified burglary

176 | of a dwelling or structure.  
 177 |       20. Chapter 812, relating to theft, robbery, and related  
 178 | crimes.  
 179 |       21. Chapter 815, relating to computer-related crimes.  
 180 |       22. Chapter 817, relating to fraudulent practices, false  
 181 | pretenses, fraud generally, and credit card crimes.  
 182 |       23. Section 827.071, relating to commercial sexual  
 183 | exploitation of children.  
 184 |       24. Chapter 831, relating to forgery and counterfeiting.  
 185 |       25. Chapter 832, relating to issuance of worthless checks  
 186 | and drafts.  
 187 |       26. Section 836.05, relating to extortion.  
 188 |       27. Chapter 837, relating to perjury.  
 189 |       28. Chapter 838, relating to bribery and misuse of public  
 190 | office.  
 191 |       29. Chapter 843, relating to obstruction of justice.  
 192 |       30. Section 847.011, s. 847.012, s. 847.013, s. 847.06, or  
 193 | s. 847.07, relating to obscene literature and profanity.  
 194 |       31. Section 849.09, s. 849.14, s. 849.15, s. 849.23, or s.  
 195 | 849.25, relating to gambling.  
 196 |       32. Chapter 893, relating to drug abuse prevention and  
 197 | control.  
 198 |       33. Section 914.22 or s. 914.23, relating to witnesses,  
 199 | victims, or informants.  
 200 |       34. Section 918.12, s. 918.125, or s. 918.13, relating to



201 | tampering with or harassing court officials, retaliating against  
 202 | court officials, jurors and tampering with evidence.

203 | **Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section**  
 204 | **895.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

205 | 895.02 Definitions.—As used in ss. 895.01-895.08, the  
 206 | term:

207 | (8) "Racketeering activity" means to commit, to attempt to  
 208 | commit, to conspire to commit, or to solicit, coerce, or  
 209 | intimidate another person to commit:

210 | (a) Any crime that is chargeable by petition, indictment,  
 211 | or information under the following provisions of the Florida  
 212 | Statutes:

213 | 1. Section 210.18, relating to evasion of payment of  
 214 | cigarette taxes.

215 | 2. Section 316.1935, relating to fleeing or attempting to  
 216 | elude a law enforcement officer and aggravated fleeing or  
 217 | eluding.

218 | 3. Chapter 379, relating to the illegal sale, purchase,  
 219 | collection, harvest, capture, or possession of wild animal life,  
 220 | freshwater aquatic life, or marine life, and related crimes.

221 | 4. Section 403.727(3)(b), relating to environmental  
 222 | control.

223 | 5. Section 409.920 or s. 409.9201, relating to Medicaid  
 224 | fraud.

225 | 6. Section 414.39, relating to public assistance fraud.

- 226           7. Section 440.105 or s. 440.106, relating to workers'  
 227 compensation.
- 228           8. Section 443.071(4), relating to creation of a  
 229 fictitious employer scheme to commit reemployment assistance  
 230 fraud.
- 231           9. Section 465.0161, relating to distribution of medicinal  
 232 drugs without a permit as an Internet pharmacy.
- 233           10. Section 499.0051, relating to crimes involving  
 234 contraband, adulterated, or misbranded drugs.
- 235           11. Part IV of chapter 501, relating to telemarketing.
- 236           12. Chapter 517, relating to sale of securities and  
 237 investor protection.
- 238           13. Section 550.235 or s. 550.3551, relating to dogracing  
 239 and horseracing.
- 240           14. Chapter 550, relating to jai alai frontons.
- 241           15. Section 551.109, relating to slot machine gaming.
- 242           16. Chapter 552, relating to the manufacture,  
 243 distribution, and use of explosives.
- 244           17. Chapter 560, relating to money transmitters, if the  
 245 violation is punishable as a felony.
- 246           18. Chapter 562, relating to beverage law enforcement.
- 247           19. Section 624.401, relating to transacting insurance  
 248 without a certificate of authority, s. 624.437(4)(c)1., relating  
 249 to operating an unauthorized multiple-employer welfare  
 250 arrangement, or s. 626.902(1)(b), relating to representing or

251 aiding an unauthorized insurer.

252 20. Section 655.50, relating to reports of currency  
253 transactions, when such violation is punishable as a felony.

254 21. Chapter 687, relating to interest and usurious  
255 practices.

256 22. Section 721.08, s. 721.09, or s. 721.13, relating to  
257 real estate timeshare plans.

258 23. Section 775.13(5)(b), relating to registration of  
259 persons found to have committed any offense for the purpose of  
260 benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a criminal  
261 gang.

262 24. Section 777.03, relating to commission of crimes by  
263 accessories after the fact.

264 25. Chapter 782, relating to homicide.

265 26. Chapter 784, relating to assault and battery.

266 27. Chapter 787, relating to kidnapping, human smuggling,  
267 or human trafficking.

268 28. Chapter 790, relating to weapons and firearms.

269 29. Chapter 794, relating to sexual battery, but only if  
270 such crime was committed with the intent to benefit, promote, or  
271 further the interests of a criminal gang, or for the purpose of  
272 increasing a criminal gang member's own standing or position  
273 within a criminal gang.

274 30. Former s. 796.03, former s. 796.035, s. 796.04, s.  
275 796.05, or s. 796.07, relating to prostitution.

- 276 |           31. Chapter 806, relating to arson and criminal mischief.
- 277 |           32. Chapter 810, relating to burglary and trespass.
- 278 |           33. Chapter 812, relating to theft, robbery, and related
- 279 | crimes.
- 280 |           34. Chapter 815, relating to computer-related crimes.
- 281 |           35. Chapter 817, relating to fraudulent practices, false
- 282 | pretenses, fraud generally, credit card crimes, and patient
- 283 | brokering.
- 284 |           36. Chapter 825, relating to abuse, neglect, or
- 285 | exploitation of an elderly person or disabled adult.
- 286 |           37. Section 827.071, relating to commercial sexual
- 287 | exploitation of children.
- 288 |           38. Section 828.122, relating to fighting or baiting
- 289 | animals.
- 290 |           39. Chapter 831, relating to forgery and counterfeiting.
- 291 |           40. Chapter 832, relating to issuance of worthless checks
- 292 | and drafts.
- 293 |           41. Section 836.05, relating to extortion.
- 294 |           42. Chapter 837, relating to perjury.
- 295 |           43. Chapter 838, relating to bribery and misuse of public
- 296 | office.
- 297 |           44. Chapter 843, relating to obstruction of justice.
- 298 |           45. Section 847.011, s. 847.012, s. 847.013, s. 847.06, or
- 299 | s. 847.07, relating to obscene literature and profanity.
- 300 |           46. Chapter 849, relating to gambling, lottery, gambling

301 or gaming devices, slot machines, or any of the provisions  
 302 within that chapter.

303 47. Chapter 874, relating to criminal gangs.

304 48. Chapter 893, relating to drug abuse prevention and  
 305 control.

306 49. Chapter 896, relating to offenses related to financial  
 307 transactions.

308 50. Sections 914.22 and 914.23, relating to tampering with  
 309 or harassing a witness, victim, or informant, and retaliation  
 310 against a witness, victim, or informant.

311 51. Sections 918.12, 918.125, and 918.13, relating to  
 312 tampering with or harassing court official, retaliating against  
 313 court officials, jurors and tampering with evidence.

314 **Section 5. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section**  
 315 **921.0022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

316 921.0022 Criminal Punishment Code; offense severity  
 317 ranking chart.—

318 (3) OFFENSE SEVERITY RANKING CHART

319 (d) LEVEL 4

320

Florida	Felony	Description
Statute	Degree	Description
316.1935 (3) (a)	2nd	Driving at high speed or with wanton disregard for safety

321

while fleeing or attempting to elude law enforcement officer who is in a patrol vehicle with siren and lights activated.

322

499.0051 (1) 3rd Failure to maintain or deliver transaction history, transaction information, or transaction statements.

323

499.0051 (5) 2nd Knowing sale or delivery, or possession with intent to sell, contraband prescription drugs.

324

517.07 (1) 3rd Failure to register securities.

325

517.12 (1) 3rd Failure of dealer or associated person of a dealer of securities to register.

326

784.031 3rd Battery by strangulation.

327

784.07 (2) (b) 3rd Battery of law enforcement officer, firefighter, etc.

328

329	784.074 (1) (c)	3rd	Battery of sexually violent predators facility staff.
330	784.075	3rd	Battery on detention or commitment facility staff.
331	784.078	3rd	Battery of facility employee by throwing, tossing, or expelling certain fluids or materials.
332	784.08 (2) (c)	3rd	Battery on a person 65 years of age or older.
333	784.081 (3)	3rd	Battery on specified official or employee.
334	784.082 (3)	3rd	Battery by detained person on visitor or other detainee.
335	784.083 (3)	3rd	Battery on code inspector.
	784.085	3rd	Battery of child by throwing, tossing, projecting, or expelling certain fluids or materials.

336	787.03 (1)	3rd	Interference with custody; wrongly takes minor from appointed guardian.
337	787.04 (2)	3rd	Take, entice, or remove child beyond state limits with criminal intent pending custody proceedings.
338	787.04 (3)	3rd	Carrying child beyond state lines with criminal intent to avoid producing child at custody hearing or delivering to designated person.
339	787.07	3rd	Human smuggling.
340	790.115 (1)	3rd	Exhibiting firearm or weapon within 1,000 feet of a school.
341	790.115 (2) (b)	3rd	Possessing electric weapon or device, destructive device, or other weapon on school property.



342	790.115 (2) (c)	3rd	Possessing firearm on school property.
343	794.051 (1)	3rd	Indecent, lewd, or lascivious touching of certain minors.
344	800.04 (7) (c)	3rd	Lewd or lascivious exhibition; offender less than 18 years.
345	806.135	2nd	Destroying or demolishing a memorial or historic property.
346	810.02 (4) (a)	3rd	Burglary, or attempted burglary, of an unoccupied structure; unarmed; no assault or battery.
347	810.02 (4) (b)	3rd	Burglary, or attempted burglary, of an unoccupied conveyance; unarmed; no assault or battery.
348	810.06	3rd	Burglary; possession of tools.
349			

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350	810.08 (2) (c)	3rd	Trespass on property, armed with firearm or dangerous weapon.
351	810.145 (3) (b)	3rd	Digital voyeurism dissemination.
352	812.014 (2) (c) 3.	3rd	Grand theft, 3rd degree \$10,000 or more but less than \$20,000.
353	812.014 (2) (c) 4. & 6.-10.	3rd	Grand theft, 3rd degree; specified items.
354	812.014 (2) (d) 2.	3rd	Grand theft, 3rd degree; \$750 or more taken from dwelling or its unenclosed curtilage.
355	812.014 (2) (e) 3.	3rd	Petit theft, 1st degree; less than \$40 taken from dwelling or its unenclosed curtilage with two or more prior theft convictions.
	812.0195 (2)	3rd	Dealing in stolen property by

use of the Internet; property  
stolen \$300 or more.

356

817.505 (4) (a) 3rd Patient brokering.

357

817.563 (1) 3rd Sell or deliver substance other  
than controlled substance  
agreed upon, excluding s.  
893.03 (5) drugs.

358

817.568 (2) (a) 3rd Fraudulent use of personal  
identification information.

359

817.5695 (3) (c) 3rd Exploitation of person 65 years  
of age or older, value less  
than \$10,000.

360

817.625 (2) (a) 3rd Fraudulent use of scanning  
device, skimming device, or  
reencoder.

361

817.625 (2) (c) 3rd Possess, sell, or deliver  
skimming device.

362

828.125 (1) 2nd Kill, maim, or cause great

bodily harm or permanent  
breeding disability to any  
registered horse or cattle.

363

836.14 (2) 3rd Person who commits theft of a  
sexually explicit image with  
intent to promote it.

364

836.14 (3) 3rd Person who willfully possesses  
a sexually explicit image with  
certain knowledge, intent, and  
purpose.

365

837.02 (1) 3rd Perjury in official  
proceedings.

366

837.021 (1) 3rd Make contradictory statements  
in official proceedings.

367

838.022 3rd Official misconduct.

368

839.13 (2) (a) 3rd Falsifying records of an  
individual in the care and  
custody of a state agency.

369

370	839.13(2)(c)	3rd	Falsifying records of the Department of Children and Families.
371	843.021	3rd	Possession of a concealed handcuff key by a person in custody.
372	843.025	3rd	Deprive law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer of means of protection or communication.
373	843.15(1)(a)	3rd	Failure to appear while on bail for felony (bond estreature or bond jumping).
374	843.19(2)	2nd	Injure, disable, or kill police, fire, or SAR canine or police horse.
375	847.0135(5)(c)	3rd	Lewd or lascivious exhibition using computer; offender less than 18 years.

376	870.01 (3)	2nd	Aggravated rioting.
377	870.01 (5)	2nd	Aggravated inciting a riot.
378	874.05 (1) (a)	3rd	Encouraging or recruiting another to join a criminal gang.
379	893.13 (2) (a) 1.	2nd	Purchase of cocaine (or other s. 893.03 (1) (a), (b), or (d), (2) (a), (2) (b), or (2) (c) 5. drugs).
380	914.14 (2)	3rd	Witnesses accepting bribes.
381	914.22 (1)	3rd	Force, threaten, etc., witness, victim, or informant.
382	914.23 (2)	3rd	Retaliation against a witness, victim, or informant, no bodily injury.
	916.1085 (2) (c) 1.	3rd	Introduction of specified contraband into certain DCF facilities.

383

~~918.12~~ 3rd ~~Tampering with jurors.~~

384

934.215 3rd Use of two-way communications device to facilitate commission of a crime.

385

944.47(1)(a)6. 3rd Introduction of contraband (cellular telephone or other portable communication device) into correctional institution.

386

951.22(1)(h), 3rd Intoxicating drug,  
(j) & (k) instrumentality or other device to aid escape, or cellular telephone or other portable communication device introduced into county detention facility.

387

388 **Section 6.** This act shall take effect October 1, 2025.