HB 279 2025

1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to the misuse of emergency 3 communications systems; amending s. 365.172, F.S.; providing enhanced criminal penalties for a specified 4 5 violation relating to the use of emergency 6 communications services which results in bodily injury 7 or property damage; requiring courts to order 8 restitution for certain violations; providing 9 requirements for such restitution; providing an 10 effective date. 11 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 13 14 Section 1. Subsection (14) of section 365.172, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 15 16 365.172 Emergency communications. 17 MISUSE OF 911, E911, OR NG911 SYSTEM; PENALTY.-911, 18 E911, and NG911 service must be used solely for emergency 19 communications by the public. 20 (a) A any person who does any of the following commits a 21 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 22 775.082 or s. 775.083: 23 Accesses the number 911 for the purpose of making a

Page 1 of 3

false alarm or complaint or reporting false information that

could result in the emergency response of any public safety

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

24

25

HB 279 2025

26 agency.; any person who

- $\underline{2.}$ Knowingly uses or attempts to use such service for a purpose other than obtaining public safety assistance.; or any $\underline{\text{person who}}$
- 3. Knowingly uses or attempts to use such service in an effort to avoid any charge for service, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (b) If a person violates subparagraph (a)1. and during the violation the subsequent emergency response results in bodily injury or property damage as a proximate result of lawful conduct arising out of the emergency response, the person commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- (c) After being convicted of unauthorized use of emergency communications services such service four times, a person who continues to engage in such unauthorized use commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- (d) A court shall order any person convicted of violating this subsection to pay restitution to a responding public safety agency. The restitution must include the full payment of any cost incurred by such agency, including bodily injury or property damage caused by the response In addition, if the value of the service or the service charge obtained in a manner

Page 2 of 3

HB 279 2025

prohibited by this subsection exceeds \$100, the person committing the offense commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

51

52

5354

Page 3 of 3