

HB 1353

2026

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to harassment and cyberstalking;
amending s. 784.048, F.S.; revising the definitions of
the terms "harass" and "cyberstalk"; reenacting ss.
784.0493(1) and 1006.147(3)(e), F.S., relating to
harassment or intimidation based on religious or
ethnic heritage and bullying and harassment prohibited
in public K-12 education, respectively; providing an
effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of section 784.048, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

784.048 Stalking; definitions; penalties.—

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

(a) "Harass" means to engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person, whether such person is specifically named or described in sufficient detail as to clearly identifiable, which causes substantial emotional distress to that person and serves no legitimate purpose.

(d) "Cyberstalk" means:

1. To engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, directly or indirectly, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or

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26 electronic communication, directed at or pertaining to a
27 specific person, whether such person is specifically named or
28 described in sufficient detail as to be clearly identifiable; or

29 2. To access, or attempt to access, the online accounts or
30 Internet-connected home electronic systems of another person
31 without that person's permission,

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33 causing substantial emotional distress to that person and
34 serving no legitimate purpose.

35 **Section 2. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
36 **made by this act to section 784.048, Florida Statutes, in a**
37 **reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 784.0493, Florida**
38 **Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

39 784.0493 Harassment or intimidation based on religious or
40 ethnic heritage.—

41 (1) As used in this section, the terms "credible threat"
42 and "harass" have the same meaning as in s. 784.048(1).

43 **Section 3. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**
44 **made by this act to section 784.048, Florida Statutes, in a**
45 **reference thereto, paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of section**
46 **1006.147, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:**

47 1006.147 Bullying and harassment prohibited.—

48 (3) For purposes of this section:

49 (e) Definitions in s. 815.03 and the definition in s.

50 784.048(1)(d) relating to stalking are applicable to this

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51 section.

52 **Section 4.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.