

By Senator Bracy Davis

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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, to incorporate
the amendment made to s. 784.048, F.S., in references
thereto; 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 be
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
electronic communication, directed at or pertaining to a
specific person, whether such person is specifically named or
described in sufficient detail as to be clearly identifiable; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

1006.147 Bullying and harassment prohibited.—

(3) For purposes of this section:

(e) Definitions in s. 815.03 and the definition in s. 784.048(1)(d) relating to stalking are applicable to this section.

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