

HB 500 -- PUBLIC SERVICE PROTECTION ACT OF 2015

SPONSOR: Peters

This bill establishes the "Public Service Protection Act of 2015." An individual who assaults, kidnaps, or murders, or attempts or conspires to kidnap or murder, or threatens to assault, kidnap, or murder an officer of the state or an officer of the state's family with intent to impede, intimidate, or interfere with the officer while engaged in the performance of official duties or with intent to retaliate against the officer on account of the performance of official duties, or any former officer of this state or former officer's family with the intent to retaliate against the former officer on account of the performance of official duties during the term of service of the former officer is guilty of the applicable offense under Chapter 565, RSMo, and must be subject to the specified enhanced punishments.

Any person who knowingly conveys or delivers any letter, paper, writing, print, missive, or document containing any threat to take the life of, to kidnap, or to inflict bodily harm or who knowingly makes any such threat on an officer of the state or an officer's family with intent to impede, intimidate, or interfere with the officer while engaged in the performance of official duties or with intent to retaliate against the officer on account of the performance of official duties, or any former officer of this state or former officer's family with the intent to retaliate against the former officer on account of the performance of official duties during the term of service of the former officer is guilty of a class D felony until December 31, 2016, and a class E felony beginning January 1, 2017.

Currently, a person commits the crime of tampering with a judicial officer if they commit certain specified acts with the purpose to harass, intimidate, or influence the officer in the performance of their official duties. This bill repeals that crime and creates the crime of tampering with an officer of the state, a class C felony until December 31, 2016, and a class D felony beginning January 1, 2017.