

Giving a False Alarm; HB 2581

HB 2581 amends law related to the crime of giving a false alarm.

The bill renames the offense as “making an unlawful request for emergency service assistance” and its definition is amended to include transmitting or communicating false or misleading information in any manner to request emergency service assistance, including law enforcement, fire, medical, or other emergency service knowing at the time there is no reasonable ground for believing assistance is needed.

The crime continues to be a class A nonperson misdemeanor, except including false information that violent criminal activity or immediate threat to a person’s life or safety has or is taking place continues to be a severity level 7 nonperson felony, except in the following circumstances added by the bill:

- If bodily harm results from the response by emergency services, the offense is a severity level 6 person felony;
- Great bodily harm resulting from the response by emergency services is a severity level 4 person felony; and
- Death resulting from the response by emergency services is a severity level 1 person felony.

The bill clarifies use of an electronic device or software to alter, conceal, or disguise the source of the request or the identify of the person making such request continues to be a level 10 nonperson felony.

The bill provides that it shall not be a defense that the person who suffered bodily harm, great bodily harm, or death contributed, or others contributed, to such person’s harm or death. Persons who make an unlawful request for emergency service assistance may also be prosecuted for any form of homicide.