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H.14

Introduced by Representatives Deen of Westminster and Burke of Brattleboro

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Crimes and criminal procedure; harassment of law enforcement and  
corrections officers

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit the  
harassment of law enforcement and corrections officers.

An act relating to prohibiting the harassment of law enforcement and  
corrections officers

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 1061 is amended to read:

§ 1061. DEFINITIONS

\* \* \*

(3) “Harassing” means actions directed at a specific person, or a  
member of the person’s family, which would cause a reasonable person to fear  
unlawful sexual conduct, unlawful restraint, bodily injury, ~~or~~ death, or damage  
to property, including verbal threats, written, telephonic, or other electronically  
communicated threats, vandalism, or physical contact without consent.

\* \* \*

1 Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 1028b is added to read:

2 § 1028b. HARASSMENT OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR  
3 CORRECTIONS OFFICER

4 (a) As used in this section:

5 (1) “Corrections officer” means an employee of the Department of  
6 Corrections whose official duties or job classification includes the supervision  
7 or monitoring of a person on parole or probation or serving any sentence of  
8 incarceration whether inside or outside a correctional facility.

9 (2) “Law enforcement officer” means a member of the Department of  
10 Public Safety who exercises law enforcement powers, a member of the State  
11 police, a Capitol Police officer, a municipal police officer, a constable who  
12 exercises law enforcement powers, a motor vehicle inspector, an employee of  
13 the Department of Liquor Control who exercises law enforcement powers, an  
14 investigator employed by the Secretary of State, the Department of Health,  
15 Attorney General, or a State’s Attorney, a fish and wildlife warden, a sheriff or  
16 deputy sheriff who exercises law enforcement powers, and a railroad police  
17 officer commissioned pursuant to 5 V.S.A. chapter 68, subchapter 8.

18 (b) A person shall not harass a law enforcement officer or corrections  
19 officer in connection with the officer’s exercise of his or her duties.

1        (c) A person who is convicted of harassment of a law enforcement or  
2        corrections officer shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not  
3        more than \$5,000.00, or both.

4        Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

5        This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.