
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 103 (S.265). Crimes; criminal threatening; threats to third persons

An act relating to expanding criminal threatening to include threats to third persons

This act expands Vermont’s criminal threatening statute by criminalizing true threats made to a group of particular persons, a person within a particular group, or someone other than the person receiving the threat. The types of threats that can be criminalized now include threats of sexual assault. The act also removes a person’s inability to carry out a threat as a statutory affirmative defense and changes the age to be charged as a juvenile to reflect Vermont’s “Raise the Age” initiative.

The act enhances penalties for threats to be carried out in enumerated locations, against specific individuals, or to prevent certain types of government action. All enhanced penalties subject a defendant to imprisonment of not more than two years or fines not more than \$2,000.00, or both. The enhanced penalty locations include a public or private school, postsecondary institution, place of worship, polling place during election activities, the Vermont State House, or any federal, State, or municipal building. Intentional threats designed to terrify, intimidate, or unlawfully influence candidates for public office, public servants, election officials, and public employees also subject the defendant to the enhanced penalty. Additionally, threats made with the intent to terrify, intimidate, or unlawfully influence a person to prevent compliance with State laws or rules, State court or administrative orders, or State executive orders subject a defendant to the enhanced penalty.

Effective Date: May 3, 2022