

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

SENATE BILL 597

By: Senator B. Johnson
By: Representative M. Shepherd

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF THREAT OF HARM UPON A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION EMPLOYEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF THREAT OF HARM UPON A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION EMPLOYEE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 60, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

5-60-126. Threat of harm upon a financial institution employee.

(a) As used in this section, "financial institution employee" means an employee who performs financial institution services and is employed by a:

- (1) State or national bank or trust company;
- (2) State or federal savings and loan association;
- (3) State or federal credit union; or
- (4) Mortgage loan lender.

(b) A person commits the offense of a threat of harm upon a financial institution employee if he or she, under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the safety of the financial institution employee, purposely engages in conduct that threatens or creates a potential danger to the financial institution employee while the financial institution employee is engaged in the course of his or her employment.

(c) A threat of harm upon a financial institution employee is a Class



B misdemeanor.

(d) This section does not amend, modify, or affect:

(1) Sections 9-27-318(g) or 9-27-318(h)(2) that requires a finding by clear and convincing evidence to transfer a juvenile case to circuit court for prosecution as an adult; and

(2) Sections 5-2-327 or 5-2-328 governing the determination of a defendant's fitness to proceed in a criminal case.

APPROVED: 4/17/25