

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

SENATE BILL 337

By: Senator Caldwell
By: Representative Wooldridge

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT REGARDING PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES; TO AUTHORIZE A PENALTY FOR THREATENING A STATE EMPLOYEE IN THE COURSE OF HIS OR HER JOB DUTIES; TO AUTHORIZE A PENALTY FOR ALERTING AN INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY OF A STATE INVESTIGATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AUTHORIZE A PENALTY FOR THREATENING A STATE EMPLOYEE IN THE COURSE OF HIS OR HER JOB DUTIES; AND TO AUTHORIZE A PENALTY FOR ALERTING AN INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY OF A STATE INVESTIGATION.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 21, Chapter 1, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

21-1-107. Penalties for certain actions by or against state employee.

(a)(1) If an individual threatens physical injury or property damage to a state employee while the state employee is acting in the course of his or her job duties and knows, or should know, that the person is a state employee, the individual, upon conviction, is guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor and is subject to a fine of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or imprisonment up to six (6) months, or both.

(2) Upon a second and subsequent conviction under this subsection, the individual is guilty of a Class D felony.



(b)(1) If for a purpose other than a legitimate investigatory need a state employee alerts an individual or entity to an investigation by a state agency of the individual or entity, the state employee, upon conviction, is guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor and is subject to a fine of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or imprisonment up to six (6) months, or both.

(2)(A) Upon a second and subsequent conviction under this subsection, the state employee is guilty of a Class D felony.

(B) A state employee convicted under subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section shall be dismissed from public employment.