

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 1964**  
**100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

4690H.02C

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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**AN ACT**

To repeal section 575.270, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the offense of tampering with a witness or victim, with penalty provisions.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 575.270, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 491.016 and 575.270, to read as follows:

**491.016. A statement made by a witness that is not otherwise admissible is admissible in evidence in a criminal proceeding in the courts of this state as substantive evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted if the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence in a hearing conducted outside the presence of the jury and before trial, that the defendant engaged in or acquiesced to wrongdoing with the purpose of preventing the witness from testifying in any proceeding and the witness fails to appear.**

575.270. 1. A person commits the offense of tampering with a witness or victim if:

(1) With the purpose to induce a witness or a prospective witness to disobey a subpoena or other legal process, absent himself or herself, avoid subpoena or other legal process, withhold evidence, information, or documents, or testify falsely, he or she:

(a) Threatens or causes harm to any person or property; or

(b) Uses force, threats or deception; or

(c) Offers, confers or agrees to confer any benefit, direct or indirect, upon such witness;

or

(d) Conveys any of the foregoing to another in furtherance of a conspiracy; or

(2) He or she purposely prevents or dissuades or attempts to prevent or dissuade any person who has been a victim of any crime or a person who is acting on behalf of any such victim from:

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

13           (a) Making any report of such victimization to any peace officer, state, local or federal  
14 law enforcement officer, prosecuting agency, or judge;

15           (b) Causing a complaint, indictment or information to be sought and prosecuted or  
16 assisting in the prosecution thereof;

17           (c) Arresting or causing or seeking the arrest of any person in connection with such  
18 victimization.

19           2. The offense of tampering with a witness or victim is a class A misdemeanor, unless  
20 the original charge is a **class B, C, D, or E** felony, in which case tampering with a witness or  
21 victim is a class D felony. **If the original charge is a class A felony or an unclassified felony,**  
22 **the offense of tampering with a witness or victim is a class C felony.** Persons convicted  
23 under this section shall not be eligible for parole.

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