

Representative Craig Hall proposes the following substitute bill:

RETALIATION AND OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

AMENDMENTS

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Craig Hall

Senate Sponsor: Todd D. Weiler

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill makes changes to certain criminal statutes regarding interfering with an investigation or legal proceeding.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ makes threatening or harming a prosecutor in relation to a criminal proceeding a felony;
- ▶ adds certain threatening communications to the list of crimes constituting obstruction of justice; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:



26 [53-10-403](#), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 142, 214, and 415

27 [76-8-306](#), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 213

28 [76-8-316](#), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 432

29

30 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

31 Section 1. Section [53-10-403](#) is amended to read:

32 **[53-10-403](#). DNA specimen analysis -- Application to offenders, including minors.**

33 (1) Sections [53-10-403.6](#), [53-10-404](#), [53-10-404.5](#), [53-10-405](#), and [53-10-406](#) apply to
34 any person who:

35 (a) has pled guilty to or has been convicted of any of the offenses under Subsection
36 (2)(a) or (b) on or after July 1, 2002;

37 (b) has pled guilty to or has been convicted by any other state or by the United States
38 government of an offense which if committed in this state would be punishable as one or more
39 of the offenses listed in Subsection (2)(a) or (b) on or after July 1, 2003;

40 (c) has been booked on or after January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2014, for any
41 offense under Subsection (2)(c);

42 (d) has been booked:

43 (i) by a law enforcement agency that is obtaining a DNA specimen on or after May 13,
44 2014, through December 31, 2014, under Subsection [53-10-404\(4\)\(b\)](#) for any felony offense; or

45 (ii) on or after January 1, 2015, for any felony offense; or

46 (e) is a minor under Subsection (3).

47 (2) Offenses referred to in Subsection (1) are:

48 (a) any felony or class A misdemeanor under the Utah Code;

49 (b) any offense under Subsection (2)(a):

50 (i) for which the court enters a judgment for conviction to a lower degree of offense
51 under Section [76-3-402](#); or

52 (ii) regarding which the court allows the defendant to enter a plea in abeyance as
53 defined in Section [77-2a-1](#); or

54 (c) (i) any violent felony as defined in Section [53-10-403.5](#);

55 (ii) sale or use of body parts, Section [26-28-116](#);

56 (iii) failure to stop at an accident that resulted in death, Section [41-6a-401.5](#);

- 57 (iv) driving with any amount of a controlled substance in a person's body and causing
58 serious bodily injury or death, Subsection 58-37-8(2)(g);
- 59 (v) a felony violation of enticing a minor over the Internet, Section 76-4-401;
- 60 (vi) a felony violation of propelling a substance or object at a correctional officer, a
61 peace officer, or an employee or a volunteer, including health care providers, Section
62 76-5-102.6;
- 63 (vii) aggravated human trafficking and aggravated human smuggling, Section
64 76-5-310;
- 65 (viii) a felony violation of unlawful sexual activity with a minor, Section 76-5-401;
- 66 (ix) a felony violation of sexual abuse of a minor, Section 76-5-401.1;
- 67 (x) unlawful sexual contact with a 16 or 17-year old, Section 76-5-401.2;
- 68 (xi) sale of a child, Section 76-7-203;
- 69 (xii) aggravated escape, Subsection 76-8-309(2);
- 70 (xiii) a felony violation of assault on an elected official, Section 76-8-315;
- 71 (xiv) influencing, impeding, or retaliating against a judge, prosecuting attorney, or
72 member of the Board of Pardons and Parole, Section 76-8-316;
- 73 (xv) advocating criminal syndicalism or sabotage, Section 76-8-902;
- 74 (xvi) assembly for advocating criminal syndicalism or sabotage, Section 76-8-903;
- 75 (xvii) a felony violation of sexual battery, Section 76-9-702.1;
- 76 (xviii) a felony violation of lewdness involving a child, Section 76-9-702.5;
- 77 (xix) a felony violation of abuse or desecration of a dead human body, Section
78 76-9-704;
- 79 (xx) manufacture, possession, sale, or use of a weapon of mass destruction, Section
80 76-10-402;
- 81 (xxi) manufacture, possession, sale, or use of a hoax weapon of mass destruction,
82 Section 76-10-403;
- 83 (xxii) possession of a concealed firearm in the commission of a violent felony,
84 Subsection 76-10-504(4);
- 85 (xxiii) assault with the intent to commit bus hijacking with a dangerous weapon,
86 Subsection 76-10-1504(3);
- 87 (xxiv) commercial obstruction, Subsection 76-10-2402(2);

88 (xxv) a felony violation of failure to register as a sex or kidnap offender, Section
89 77-41-107;

90 (xxvi) repeat violation of a protective order, Subsection 77-36-1.1(2)(c); or

91 (xxvii) violation of condition for release after arrest under Section 78B-7-802.

92 (3) A minor under Subsection (1) is a minor 14 years old or older who is adjudicated
93 by the juvenile court due to the commission of any offense described in Subsection (2), and
94 who:

95 (a) committed an offense under Subsection (2) within the jurisdiction of the juvenile
96 court on or after July 1, 2002; or

97 (b) is in the legal custody of the Division of Juvenile Justice Services on or after July 1,
98 2002, for an offense under Subsection (2).

99 Section 2. Section 76-8-306 is amended to read:

100 **76-8-306. Obstruction of justice in criminal investigations or proceedings --**
101 **Elements -- Penalties -- Exceptions.**

102 (1) As used in this section "conduct that constitutes a criminal offense" means conduct
103 that would be punishable as a crime and is separate from a violation of this section, including:

104 (a) any violation of a criminal statute or ordinance of the state, a political subdivision
105 of the state, another state, or a district, possession, or territory of the United States; and

106 (b) conduct committed by a juvenile that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

107 ~~[(1)]~~ (2) An actor commits obstruction of justice if the actor, with intent to hinder,
108 delay, or prevent the investigation, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or punishment of
109 ~~[any person]~~ an individual regarding conduct that constitutes a criminal offense:

110 (a) provides ~~[any person]~~ an individual with a weapon;

111 (b) prevents by force, intimidation, or deception, ~~[any person]~~ an individual from
112 performing any act that might aid in the discovery, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or
113 punishment of ~~[any]~~ a person;

114 (c) alters, destroys, conceals, or removes ~~[any item or other thing]~~ an item;

115 (d) makes, presents, or uses ~~[any]~~ an item or thing known by the actor to be false;

116 (e) harbors or conceals ~~[a person]~~ an individual;

117 (f) provides ~~[a person]~~ an individual with transportation, disguise, or other means of
118 avoiding discovery or apprehension;

- 119 (g) warns ~~[any person]~~ an individual of impending discovery or apprehension;
- 120 (h) warns ~~[any person]~~ an individual of an order authorizing the interception of wire
121 communications or of a pending application for an order authorizing the interception of wire
122 communications;
- 123 (i) conceals information that is not privileged and that concerns the offense, after a
124 judge or magistrate has ordered the actor to provide the information; or
- 125 (j) provides false information regarding a suspect, a witness, the conduct constituting
126 an offense, or any other material aspect of the investigation.
- 127 ~~[(2)(a) As used in this section, "conduct that constitutes a criminal offense" means~~
128 ~~conduct that would be punishable as a crime and is separate from a violation of this section,~~
129 ~~and includes:]~~
- 130 ~~[(i) any violation of a criminal statute or ordinance of this state, its political~~
131 ~~subdivisions, any other state, or any district, possession, or territory of the United States; and]~~
- 132 ~~[(ii) conduct committed by a juvenile which would be a crime if committed by an~~
133 ~~adult.]~~
- 134 ~~[(b) A]~~ (3) For purposes of this section, a violation of a criminal statute that is
135 committed in another state, or [any] a district, possession, or territory of the United States, is a:
- 136 ~~[(i)]~~ (a) capital felony if the penalty provided includes death or life imprisonment
137 without parole;
- 138 ~~[(ii)]~~ (b) a first degree felony if the penalty provided includes life imprisonment with
139 parole or a maximum term of imprisonment exceeding 15 years;
- 140 ~~[(iii)]~~ (c) a second degree felony if the penalty provided exceeds five years;
- 141 ~~[(iv)]~~ (d) a third degree felony if the penalty provided includes imprisonment for any
142 period exceeding one year; and
- 143 ~~[(v)]~~ (e) a misdemeanor if the penalty provided includes imprisonment for any period
144 of one year or less.
- 145 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) Obstruction of justice is:
- 146 (a) a second degree felony if the conduct which constitutes an offense would be a
147 capital felony or first degree felony;
- 148 (b) a third degree felony if:
- 149 (i) the conduct that constitutes an offense would be a second or third degree felony and

150 the actor violates Subsection ~~[(1)]~~ (2)(b), (c), (d), (e), or (f);

151 (ii) the conduct that constitutes an offense would be any offense other than a capital or
152 first degree felony and the actor violates Subsection ~~[(1)]~~ (2)(a);

153 (iii) the obstruction of justice is presented or committed before a court of law; or

154 (iv) a violation of Subsection ~~[(1)]~~ (2)(h); or

155 (c) a class A misdemeanor for any violation of this section that is not enumerated under
156 Subsection ~~[(3)]~~ (4)(a) or (b).

157 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) It is not a defense that the actor was unaware of the level of penalty for the
158 conduct constituting an offense.

159 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) Subsection ~~[(1)]~~ (2)(e) does not apply to harboring a youth offender, which is
160 governed by Section [62A-7-402](#).

161 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) Subsection ~~[(1)]~~ (2)(b) does not apply to:

162 (a) tampering with a juror, which is governed by Section [76-8-508.5](#);

163 (b) influencing, impeding, or retaliating against a judge, prosecuting attorney, or
164 member of the Board of Pardons and Parole, which is governed by Section [76-8-316](#);

165 (c) tampering with a witness or soliciting or receiving a bribe, which is governed by
166 Section [76-8-508](#);

167 (d) retaliation against a witness, victim, or informant, which is governed by Section
168 [76-8-508.3](#); or

169 (e) extortion or bribery to dismiss a criminal proceeding, which is governed by Section
170 [76-8-509](#).

171 ~~[(7)]~~ (8) Notwithstanding Subsection ~~[(1), (2), or (3)]~~ (2), (3), or (4), an actor commits
172 a third degree felony if the actor harbors or conceals an offender who has escaped from official
173 custody as defined in Section [76-8-309](#).

174 Section 3. Section **76-8-316** is amended to read:

175 **76-8-316. Influencing, impeding, or retaliating against a judge or member of the**
176 **Board of Pardons and Parole or acting against a family member of a judge or a member**
177 **of the Board of Pardons and Parole.**

178 (1) As used in this section:

179 (a) "Board member" means an appointed member of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

180 (b) "Family member" means ~~[parents]~~ an individual's parent, spouse, surviving spouse,

181 ~~[children, and siblings of a judge or board member]~~ child, or sibling.

182 (c) "Judge" means judges of all courts of record and courts not of record and court
183 commissioners.

184 (d) "Official" means a judge, prosecuting attorney, or board member.

185 (e) "Prosecuting attorney" means an attorney ~~Ŷ~~→ **directly** ←~~Ŷ~~ involved in the criminal
185a prosecution of a
186 defendant.

187 (2) ~~[A person]~~ An individual is guilty of a third degree felony if ~~[the person threatens]:~~

188 (a) the individual makes ~~Ŷ~~→ **specific and** ←~~Ŷ~~ a credible threat to assault, kidnap, or
188a murder [a judge, a

189 family member of a judge, a board member, or a family member of a board member] an official
190 or a family member of an official with the intent to:

191 (i) impede, intimidate, or interfere with the [judge or board member] official while
192 engaged in the performance of the [judge's or board member's] official's official duties; or ~~[with~~
193 the intent to]

194 (ii) retaliate against the [judge or board member] official on account of the
195 performance of those official duties[-]; and

196 (b) the official or family member of an official who is the subject of the threat
197 reasonably believes the individual will perform the threatened act.

198 (3) ~~[A person]~~ An individual is guilty of a second degree felony if the ~~[person]~~
199 individual commits an assault on ~~[a judge, a family member of a judge, a board member, or a~~
200 family member of a board member] an official or a family member of an official with the intent
201 to:

202 (a) impede, intimidate, or interfere with the [judge or board member] official while
203 engaged in the performance of the [judge's or board member's] official's official duties[-; or with
204 the intent to]; or

205 (b) retaliate against the [judge or board member] official on account of the
206 performance of those official duties.

207 (4) ~~[A person]~~ An individual is guilty of a first degree felony if the ~~[person]~~ individual
208 commits aggravated assault on [a judge, a family member of a judge, a board member, or a
209 family member of a board member] an official or a family member of an official with the intent
210 to:

211 (a) impede, intimidate, or interfere with the [judge or board member] official while

212 engaged in the performance of the [~~judge's or board member's~~] official's official duties; or [~~with~~
213 ~~the intent to~~]

214 (b) retaliate against the [~~judge or board member~~] official on account of the
215 performance of those official duties.

216 (5) [~~A person~~] An individual is guilty of a first degree felony if the [~~person~~] individual
217 commits attempted murder on a family member of [~~a judge or a family member of a board~~
218 ~~member~~] an official with the intent to:

219 (a) impede, intimidate, or interfere with the [~~judge or board member~~] official while
220 engaged in the performance of the [~~judge's or board member's~~] official's official duties; or [~~with~~
221 ~~the intent to~~]

222 (b) retaliate against the [~~judge or board member~~] official on account of the
223 performance of those official duties.

224 (6) A member of the Board of Pardons and Parole is an executive officer for purposes
225 of Subsection [76-5-202\(1\)\(m\)](#).