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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 1429

02/20/2017 Authored by Clark; Cornish; Dehn, R.; O'Neill; Davnie and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Security Policy and Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public safety; expanding the contempt of court crime; amending
1.3 Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 588.20, subdivision 2.
1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 588.20, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.6 Subd. 2. **Misdemeanor contempt.** (a) Every person who commits a contempt of court,
1.7 of any one of the following kinds, is guilty of a misdemeanor:

1.8 (1) disorderly, contemptuous, or insolent behavior, committed during the sitting of the
1.9 court, in its immediate view and presence, and directly tending to interrupt its proceedings,
1.10 or to impair the respect due to its authority;

1.11 (2) behavior of like character in the presence of a referee, while actually engaged in a
1.12 trial or hearing, pursuant to an order of court, or in the presence of a jury while actually
1.13 sitting for the trial of a cause, or upon an inquest or other proceeding authorized by law;

1.14 (3) breach of the peace, noise, or other disturbance directly tending to interrupt the
1.15 proceedings of a court, jury, or referee;

1.16 (4) willful disobedience to the lawful process or other mandate of a court other than the
1.17 conduct described in subdivision 1;

1.18 (5) resistance willfully offered to its lawful process or other mandate other than the
1.19 conduct described in subdivision 1;

1.20 (6) contumacious and unlawful refusal to be sworn as a witness, or, after being sworn,
1.21 to answer any legal and proper interrogatory;

2.1 (7) publication of a false or grossly inaccurate report of its proceedings; ~~or~~

2.2 (8) willful failure to pay court-ordered child support when the obligor has the ability to
2.3 pay; or

2.4 (9) willful violation of a geographic restriction issued by the court as an order or condition
2.5 of probation or pretrial release.

2.6 (b) For purposes of paragraph (a), clause (9), "geographic restriction" means an order
2.7 or condition that prohibits a person from entering a designated property or geographic area.

2.8 (c) No person may be punished as provided in this subdivision for publishing a true,
2.9 full, and fair report of a trial, argument, decision, or other court proceeding.

2.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2017, and applies to crimes
2.11 committed on or after that date.