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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 2609

05/10/2021 Authored by Novotny and Boe The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public safety; establishing the crime of conspiring to falsely call for
1.3 emergency services; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 609.78,
1.4 subdivisions 1, 2.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 609.78, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.7 Subdivision 1. Misdemeanor offenses. Whoever does the following is guilty of a
1.8 misdemeanor:

1.9 (1) refuses to relinquish immediately a coin-operated telephone or a telephone line
1.10 consisting of two or more stations when informed that the line is needed to make an
1.11 emergency call;

1.12 (2) secures a relinquishment of a coin-operated telephone or a telephone line consisting
1.13 of two or more stations by falsely stating that the line is needed for an emergency;

1.14 (3) publishes telephone directories to be used for telephones or telephone lines and the
1.15 directories do not contain a copy of this section;

1.16 (4) makes a call for emergency police, fire, medical, or ambulance service, knowing
1.17 that no police, fire, or medical emergency exists;

1.18 (5) interrupts, disrupts, impedes, or otherwise interferes with the transmission of a
1.19 citizen's band radio channel communication the purpose of which is to inform or inquire
1.20 about a medical emergency or an emergency in which property is or is reasonably believed
1.21 to be in imminent danger of damage or destruction; ~~or~~

2.1 (6) makes or initiates an emergency call, knowing that no emergency exists, and with
 2.2 the intent to disrupt, interfere with, or reduce the provision of emergency services or the
 2.3 emergency call center's resources, remains silent, or makes abusive or harassing statements
 2.4 to the call recipient; or

2.5 (7) intentionally recruits, trains, aids, advises, hires, counsels, or conspires with or
 2.6 otherwise procures another to commit a violation of clause (4) or (6).

2.7 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to crimes
 2.8 committed on or after that date.

2.9 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 609.78, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

2.10 Subd. 2. **Gross misdemeanor offenses.** Whoever does the following is guilty of a gross
 2.11 misdemeanor:

2.12 (1) intentionally interrupts, disrupts, impedes, or interferes with an emergency call or
 2.13 who intentionally prevents or hinders another from placing an emergency call, and whose
 2.14 conduct does not result in a violation of section 609.498;

2.15 (2) places an emergency call and reports a fictitious emergency with the intent of
 2.16 prompting an emergency response by law enforcement, fire, or emergency medical services
 2.17 personnel; ~~or~~

2.18 (3) violates subdivision 1, clause (6), after having been previously convicted or
 2.19 adjudicated delinquent for violating that clause; or

2.20 (4) violates subdivision 1, clause (7), after having been previously convicted or
 2.21 adjudicated delinquent for violating that clause.

2.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to crimes
 2.23 committed on or after that date.