



# *ENACTMENT SUMMARY*

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## **HB 20**

### **Harassment/Impeding Emergency Service Provider**

Effective October 6, 2026

On July 7, 2026, Governor DeWine signed HB 20 (Reps. Hall and Plummer) into law.

The bill expands the offense of obstructing official business (R.C. 2921.31) to provide that no person, without privilege to do so, and after receiving a warning, shall knowingly approach or remain within fifteen feet of an emergency service responder engaged in the lawful performance of his or her legal duty, and do either of the following:

1. Impede/Interfere with the responder's ability to perform his or her legal duty
2. Threaten the responder with physical harm

The offense of obstructing official business is generally an M2, and an F5 if the violation creates a risk of physical harm to any person other than an emergency service responder. If the violation is of the type described above (newly created by the bill), the offense is an M1, and if the violation creates a risk of physical harm to an emergency service responder, the offense is an F4.

Additionally, the bill expands the definition of "emergency service responder" to include probation officers.

The House of Representatives passed the bill on June 18, 2025 by a vote of 79-18, and the Ohio Senate passed the bill June 3, 2026 by a vote of 29-2. The House voted on June 9, 2026 to concur in Senate amendments by a vote of 83-12. The bill was signed into law on July 7, 2026 and takes effect on October 6, 2026.