
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 506

AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR INTENTIONAL DAMAGE TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

SUMMARY

This bill expands the crimes of 1st and 2nd degree criminal mischief to include intentionally damaging certain tangible property of others, including public services and systems (such as utilities, transportation, communications, emergency response, and other state and municipal systems). Under existing law and the bill, both crimes require the person to have acted with no reasonable grounds to believe he or she had the right to do so.

By law, 1st degree criminal mischief is a class D felony punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine up to \$5,000, or both and 2nd degree criminal mischief is a class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 364 days in prison, a fine up to \$2,000, or both.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

1ST DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Actual Service Interruption or Impairment

The bill expands 1st degree criminal mischief to include when a person, intending to damage another's tangible property, damages or tampers with the tangible property of a utility or mode of public transportation, power, or communication. Existing law already includes instances where someone intentionally interrupts or impairs these services.

Specific Services or Systems Damage

Under existing law, a person commits 1st degree criminal mischief by intentionally interrupting or impairing public services by damaging

or tampering with any of the following:

1. tangible property owned by the state, a municipality, or a person for fire alarm or police alarm purposes;
2. telecommunication systems operated by the State Police or a municipal police department;
3. emergency medical or fire service dispatching systems;
4. fire suppression equipment owned by the state, a municipality, a person, or a fire district; or
5. fire hydrants or hydrant systems owned by the state or a municipality, person, fire district, or private water company.

The bill expands this crime to instances where the person intended to damage another person's tangible property.

2nd Degree Criminal Mischief

Risk of Interruption or Impairment

Under existing law, a person commits 2nd degree criminal mischief when the person intentionally causes a risk of interruption or impairment of public service by damaging or tampering with tangible property of a public utility or mode of public transportation, power, or communication.

The bill expands this crime to include situations where the person intended to damage another person's tangible property and instead caused the risk to public property and services described above.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 41 Nay 0 (03/30/2026)