

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S3/20/25

95th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

SENATE BILL 355

By: Senator J. Bryant

By: Representative Underwood

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF OBSTRUCTING
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF
OBSTRUCTING GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-54-102 is amended to read as
follows:

5-54-102. Obstructing governmental operations.

(a) A person commits the offense of obstructing governmental
operations if the person:

(1) Knowingly obstructs, impairs, or hinders the performance of
any governmental function;

(2) Knowingly refuses to provide information requested by an
employee of a governmental agency relating to the investigation of a case
brought under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 651 et seq.,
and is the physical custodian of the child in the case;

(3) Fails to submit to court-ordered scientific testing by a
noninvasive procedure to determine the paternity of a child in a case brought
under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 651 et seq.; ~~or~~

(4) Falsely identifies himself or herself to a law enforcement
officer or a code enforcement officer; or

(5) Having received in person service of a subpoena issued by a
judge or a court clerk, knowingly fails to appear to testify at a trial or



1 court hearing in a criminal matter.

2 (b)(1) Obstructing governmental operations by using or threatening to
3 use physical force is a Class A misdemeanor.

4 (2) A second or subsequent offense of obstructing governmental
5 operations under subdivision (a)(4) of this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

6 (3) The offense of obstructing governmental operations under
7 subdivision (a)(5) of this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

8 (4) Otherwise, obstructing governmental operations is a Class C
9 misdemeanor.

10 (c) This section does not apply to:

11 (1) Unlawful flight by a person charged with an offense;

12 (2) Refusal to submit to arrest;

13 (3) Any means of avoiding compliance with the law not involving
14 affirmative interference with a governmental function unless specifically set
15 forth in this section; or

16 (4) Obstruction, impairment, or hindrance of what a person
17 reasonably believes is a public servant's unlawful action.

18 (d)(1) As used in this section, "code enforcement officer" means an
19 individual charged with the duty of enforcing a municipal code, municipal
20 ordinance, or municipal regulation as defined by a municipal code, municipal
21 ordinance, or municipal regulation.

22 (2) "Code enforcement officer" includes a municipal animal
23 control officer.

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25 /s/J. Bryant
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28 **APPROVED: 4/22/25**
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