

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

*As Engrossed: S3/23/17*

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1578

5 By: Representative Hammer  
6 *By: Senator Collins-Smith*  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 *AN ACT CONCERNING OFFENSES INVOLVING INTERFERENCE*  
10 *WITH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL OR FIRST*  
11 *RESPONDERS; ESTABLISHING CIVIL LIABILITY UNDER*  
12 *CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

## Subtitle

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15 *CONCERNING OFFENSES INVOLVING*  
16 *INTERFERENCE WITH EMERGENCY MEDICAL*  
17 *SERVICES PERSONNEL OR FIRST RESPONDERS;*  
18 *AND ESTABLISHING CIVIL LIABILITY.*  
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-60-123 is amended to read as follows:

25 5-60-123. Obstruction or interference with emergency medical personnel  
26 or first responder.

27 ~~(a) It is unlawful for a person to obstruct or interfere with~~  
28 ~~emergency medical services personnel, a rescue technician, or any other~~  
29 ~~emergency medical care provider, whether governmental, private, or volunteer~~  
30 ~~emergency medical personnel, in the performance of his or her rescue mission.~~

31 ~~(b)(1) Obstruction or interference with emergency medical personnel by~~  
32 ~~using or threatening to use physical force is a Class A misdemeanor.~~

33 ~~(2) Obstruction or interference with emergency medical personnel~~  
34 ~~other than by physical force or threatening physical force is a Class C~~  
35 ~~misdemeanor.~~

36 (a) As used in this section:



1           (1) "Emergency medical services personnel" includes without  
2 limitation a governmental, private, or volunteer:

3                   (A) Emergency medical services personnel;

4                   (B) Rescue technician; or

5                   (C) Emergency medical care provider; and

6           (2) "First responder" means a firefighter or a law enforcement  
7 officer.

8           (b) A person who knowingly obstructs or interferes with emergency  
9 medical services personnel or first responder in the performance of the  
10 emergency medical services personnel's or first responder's rescue mission  
11 upon conviction is guilty of:

12                   (1) A Class A misdemeanor if the person uses or threatens to use  
13 physical force; or

14                   (2) A Class C misdemeanor if otherwise committed.

15           (c) A person who purposely obstructs or interferes with emergency  
16 medical services personnel or first responder in the performance of the  
17 emergency medical services personnel's or first responder's rescue mission  
18 upon conviction is guilty of a Class D felony.

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20           SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 16, Chapter 118, Subchapter 1, is  
21 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

22           16-118-113. Civil action against a person who engages in a riot or  
23 disorderly conduct, or who obstructs or interferes with emergency medical  
24 services personnel or first responder.

25           (a) In addition to any other cause of action available to a person, a  
26 person who suffers injury to himself or herself or to his or her property as  
27 a direct or indirect result of:

28                   (1) An act of obstructing or interfering with emergency medical  
29 personnel or first responder, § 5-60-123, if the act of obstructing or  
30 interfering with emergency medical personnel or first responder is a felony  
31 or Class A misdemeanor, may bring a civil action against a person who  
32 obstructed or interfered with the emergency medical personnel or first  
33 responder; or

34                   (2) A riot or the activity of a rioter under § 5-71-201 et seq.,  
35 may bring a civil action against the rioter or a person or entity that  
36 incites the riot.

