

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

As Engrossed: S3/20/25

**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 355

5 By: Senator J. Bryant  
6 By: Representative Underwood  
7

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

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

**Subtitle**

14 TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF  
15 OBSTRUCTING GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS.  
16

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

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

21 5-54-102. Obstructing governmental operations.

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

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

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

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

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

35 (5) Having received in person service of a subpoena issued by a  
36 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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