

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 355

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

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

11 TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF
12 OBSTRUCTING GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS.
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14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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16 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-54-102 is amended to read as
17 follows:
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19 5-54-102. Obstructing governmental operations.

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

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

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

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

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

33 (5) Having received personal service of a court-issued subpoena,
34 knowingly fails to appear to testify at a trial or court hearing.
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1 (b)(1) Obstructing governmental operations by using or threatening to
2 use physical force is a Class A misdemeanor.

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

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

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

9 (c) This section does not apply to:

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

11 (2) Refusal to submit to arrest;

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

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

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

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

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