1 State of Arkansas

2 95th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2025   SENATE BILL 597

4

5 By: Senator B. Johnson

6 By: Representative M. Shepherd

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8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9   AN ACT TO CREATE THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF THREAT OF

10   HARM UPON A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION EMPLOYEE; AND FOR

11   OTHER PURPOSES.

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13

14   **Subtitle**

15   TO CREATE THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF THREAT

16   OF HARM UPON A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

17   EMPLOYEE.

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

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21   SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 60, Subchapter 1, is amended

22 to add an additional section to read as follows:

23   5-60-126. Threat of harm upon a financial institution employee.

24   (a) As used in this section, "financial institution employee" means an

25 employee who performs financial institution services and is employed by a:

26   (1) State or national bank or trust company;

27   (2) State or federal savings and loan association;

28   (3) State or federal credit union; or

29   (4) Mortgage loan lender.

30   (b) A person commits the offense of a threat of harm upon a financial

31 institution employee if he or she, under circumstances manifesting extreme

32 indifference to the safety of the financial institution employee, purposely

33 engages in conduct that threatens or creates a potential danger to the

34 financial institution employee while the financial institution employee is

35 engaged in the course of his or her employment.

36   (c) A threat of harm upon a financial institution employee is a Class

1 B misdemeanor.

2 (d) This section does not amend, modify, or affect:

3 (1) Sections 9-27-318(g) or 9-27-318(h)(2) that requires a

4 finding by clear and convincing evidence to transfer a juvenile case to

5 circuit court for prosecution as an adult; and

6 (2) Sections 5-2-327 or 5-2-328 governing the determination of a

7 defendant's fitness to proceed in a criminal case.