

2013 -- S 0413

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - PUBLIC UTILITIES

Introduced By: Senators Ottiano, DiPalma, and Algieri

Date Introduced: February 26, 2013

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11-35-14 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-35 entitled "Public
2 Utilities" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-35-14. Refusal to relinquish or to damage or to obstruct telephone. --** (a) Any
4 person who willfully refuses to relinquish a party line or who obstructs or damages an individual
5 telephone line or telephone set when he or she knows or should have known that the party line,
6 individual telephone line or telephone set is needed for an emergency call to a fire department or
7 police department or for medical aid or ambulance service shall be fined not less than fifty dollars
8 (\$50.00) nor more than three hundred dollars (\$300) or be imprisoned ninety (90) days, or both,
9 or any person who secures the use of a party line by falsely stating that the line is needed for an
10 emergency call shall be fined not exceeding twenty dollars (\$20.00) or be imprisoned not
11 exceeding three (3) months. [If a violation of this section involves domestic violence as defined in](#)
12 [section 12-29-2, the person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to imprisonment](#)
13 [up to one year or a fine of up to one thousand dollars \(\\$1,000\), or both.](#)

14 (b) As used in this section:

15 (1) "Party line" means a subscriber line telephone circuit consisting of two (2) or more
16 main telephone stations connected with it, each station with a distinctive ring or telephone
17 number; and

18 (2) "Emergency" means a situation in which property or human life are in jeopardy and
19 the prompt summoning of aid is essential.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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1 This act would make a violation of this section a misdemeanor if domestic violence is
2 involved.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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