

2016 -- S 2515

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- PUBLIC UTILITIES

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, and Crowley

Date Introduced: February 25, 2016

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 11-35-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-35 entitled "Public  
2 Utilities" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **11-35-4. Injuries to electric or communication lines.** -- (a) Every person who shall  
4 wantonly or willfully and maliciously cut, destroy, break down, or injure, or attempt to cut,  
5 destroy, break down, or injure any machine, appliance, or apparatus used for generating electric  
6 currents or any electric wire or other appliance or apparatus used for the purpose of conducting or  
7 transmitting electric currents for using and furnishing power, motive power, light, or heat, or used  
8 for the purpose of transmitting intelligence by means of telegraphic or telephonic apparatus or  
9 cellular tower or radio waves or by means of fire-alarm signals, burglar-alarm signals, police  
10 signals, railway signals, or other apparatus or appliance for the transmission of intelligence, or  
11 shall cut, destroy, break down, or injure or shall attempt to cut, destroy, break down, or injure any  
12 pole, bracket, insulator or other device, apparatus, or appliance for supporting or carrying any  
13 electric wire, or shall do any other act interrupting or intended to interrupt the transmission of the  
14 electric current over any electric wire through the manual or electronic operation of a switching  
15 mechanism or by other means, shall be liable to indictment for it, and upon conviction shall be  
16 required to make restitution, and fined not exceeding ~~three thousand dollars (\$3,000)~~ fifty  
17 thousand dollars (\$50,000) or imprisoned not exceeding ~~two (2) years~~ ten (10) years, or both;  
18 provided, that nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize or permit the attachment,  
19 erection, use, operation, or maintenance of any electric wire, apparatus, pole, bracket, insulator,

1 or other device or appliance, upon the property of any person or corporation, without the consent  
2 of the owner or owners; nor to prevent any properly authorized person from removing any  
3 electric wire, apparatus, pole, bracket, insulator, or other device or appliance for the purpose of  
4 permitting the passage of any building or structure, the moving of which has been duly authorized  
5 by any city or town council.

6 [\(b\) Restitution, in addition to the cost for restoring operations, shall be owed to any third](#)  
7 [party who suffered economic harm as a result of the injuries to the electric and communication](#)  
8 [lines as provided for in this section.](#)

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- PUBLIC UTILITIES

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1           This act would criminalize injuries to cell/radio towers and increase penalties for injury  
2 to electric and communication lines from three thousand dollars (\$3,000) to fifty thousand dollars  
3 (\$50,000); imprisonment from two (2) years to ten (10) years, or both and require restitution for  
4 economic harm.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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