



ENACTMENT NEWS

House Bill 129

Stalking

House Bill 129 becomes effective September 15, 2014

House Bill 129 (Stautberg), which was signed by the Governor on June 17, 2014, will become effective on September 15, 2014. In an effort to avoid violence in the workplace, the law makes two changes to prohibitions to menacing.

For offenses that prohibit someone from causing another to believe that the offender will cause physical harm to the person (Aggravated Menacing -2903.21, Menacing By Stalking - 2903.211, Menacing -2903.22) the bill provides that in addition to any other basis for the victim's belief, the belief may be based on words or conduct of the offender directed at a corporation, association, or other organization to which the other person belongs or works for, including a governmental employer.

The law permits a corporation, association, or other organization with 2 or more employees or members who are alleged victims of Aggravated Menacing, Menacing By Stalking, or Menacing to file a motion for a temporary protection order or to file a petition for a civil protection order on behalf of the corporation, association, or other organization if the offense is based on the offender's words or conduct directed at the corporation, association, or organization.

The law allows an attorney, on behalf of the corporation, association, or other organization, to file an affidavit to provide sufficient evidentiary support for the issuance of a temporary protection order or a civil protection order (as outlined in Ohio Criminal Rule of Procedure 4(A)(1)).