

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2856

DATE: March 17, 2004

Version: As amended in Committee

Authors: Lipman

Subject: Criminal sexual conduct and harassment

Analyst: Jeff Diebel, 651-296-5041

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill expands and clarifies the harassment crimes in several ways. It also amends the harassment restraining law to make these orders more accessible to certain victims.

Section

- 1 Restraining order; jurisdiction.** Amends the harassment restraining order law to permit stepparents, besides a minor's parent or guardian, to seek a harassment restraining order on behalf of a minor.
- 2 Filing fee; cost of service.** Provides that filing fees for a harassment restraining order are waived if the petition alleges acts constituting criminal sexual conduct as the basis for seeking the order. Under current law, such fees are waived only when the petition alleges acts constituting criminal harassment as the basis for seeking the order.
- 3 Harassment definition.** Amends the definition of "harassment," as used in the criminal harassment law, to eliminate the requirement that the defendant's harassing conduct be proven to have caused the victim to feel frightened, threatened, oppressed, persecuted, or intimidated.
- 4 Harassment and stalking crimes.** Amends the elements of the crime of stalking/harassment to include the monitoring of a person, whether in person or by technological means.
- 5 Effective date.** August 1, 2004, for crimes committed on or after that date.