



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0819/1
PJH:kjf:wj

2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 53

February 17, 2015 – Introduced by Representatives J. OTT, BORN, KLEEFISCH, TITTL, MURSAU, T. LARSON, A. OTT, EDMING, BALLWEG, E. BROOKS, SPIROS, DOYLE and MURPHY, cosponsored by Senator NASS. Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 943.31 of the statutes; **relating to:** threatening to
2 communicate derogatory information.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a person who threatens to expose information, whether true or false, that would injure the reputation of the threatened person unless the threatened person transfers property to a person who is not entitled to the property is guilty of a Class I felony, and subject to a fine up to \$10,000, imprisonment for up to three years and six months, or both.

Under this bill, a person is guilty of a Class I felony if he or she threatens to expose information, whether true or false, that would humiliate or injure the reputation of the threatened person, with the intent to extort money or any pecuniary advantage, or with the intent to compel the threatened person to do any act against the person's will or omit to do any lawful act. Under the bill, "information" includes any visual image or an audio representation or recording.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 943.31 of the statutes is amended to read:
4 **943.31 Threats to communicate derogatory information.** Whoever
5 threatens, with intent to extort money or any pecuniary advantage whatever, or with

ASSEMBLY BILL 53**SECTION 1**

1 intent to compel the person so threatened to do any act against the person's will or
2 omit to do any lawful act, to disseminate or to communicate to anyone information,
3 whether true or false, which that would humiliate or injure the reputation of the
4 threatened person or another unless the threatened person transfers property to a
5 person known not to be entitled to it is guilty of a Class I felony. For the purpose of
6 this section, "information" includes any photograph, exposed film, motion picture,
7 videotape, or data that represents a visual image, a sound recording, or any data that
8 represents or produces an audio signal.

9 (END)