

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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S.B. 962
By: Barrientos
Criminal Justice
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As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, the Penal Code defines stalking as communications made in person, in writing, or by telephone. The code, however, does not include communications made electronically, such as by Internet electronic mail.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 962 adds electronic communication to the methods of communicating in a stalking offense.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 42, Penal Code, to provide that a person commits an offense if, with intent to harass, the person initiates communication or threatens by electronic communication, or sends repeated electronic communications either signed or anonymously, or in a manner reasonably likely to harass or offend another. Redefines "family." Provides that the offense is a Class A misdemeanor if the person has previously been convicted under this section.

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.

SECTION 2.