

2001 ASSEMBLY BILL 531

October 8, 2001 - Introduced by Representatives SCHNEIDER, GRONEMUS, M. LEHMAN, HAHN, RYBA and LASSA, cosponsored by Senator ROESSLER. Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 947.0125 (4) of the statutes; **relating to:** prohibiting certain
2 computer postings that invite harassment or obscene, lewd, or profane
3 communication, and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law prohibits the following certain conduct or communication that is intended to harass, intimidate, frighten, threaten, or abuse:

Harassment. Whoever engages in certain conduct intended to harass or intimidate another is subject to a Class B forfeiture, which is a forfeiture not to exceed \$1,000. If the actor engages in harassing or intimidating conduct while subject to a restraining order and the conduct is accompanied by a credible threat that places the victim in fear of death or great bodily harm, then the actor is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor, which is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, confinement in jail for up to nine months, or both.

Unlawful use of a telephone or of computerized communication systems. A person who makes a telephone call or sends a message over a computer system with intent to frighten, intimidate, threaten, abuse, or harass the recipient of the call or message and who threatens to injure the recipient is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor, which is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, confinement in jail for up to 90 days, or both. A person is also guilty of a Class B misdemeanor, if he or she makes a telephone call or sends a message over a computer system with intent to frighten,

