



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 335
[2015 Assembly Bill 53]

**Threats to Communicate
Derogatory Information**

PRIOR LAW

Under prior law, a person was guilty of a Class I felony if he or she threatened to expose information that would injure the reputation of the threatened person or another unless the threatened person transferred property to a person who was not entitled to the property. A Class I felony is punishable by a term of imprisonment not to exceed three years and six months, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

2015 WISCONSIN ACT 335

2015 Wisconsin Act 335 modifies the prohibition provided under prior law. Specifically, the Act provides that a person is guilty of a Class I felony if he or she maliciously threatens to expose information that would humiliate or injure the reputation of the injured person, with the intent to either:

- Extort money or any pecuniary advantage.
- Compel the threatened person to do any act against the person's will.

The Act specifies that for purposes of this crime, "information" includes any photograph, exposed film, motion picture, videotape, or data that represents a visual image, a sound recording, or any data that represents or produces an audio signal.

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Prepared by: Michael Queensland, Staff Attorney

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.