**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**S. 331**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Rankin, Alexander and Verdin

Companion/Similar bill(s): 330, 3577

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Introduced in the Senate on January 10, 2023

Currently residing in the Senate

Summary: Malicious Injury to Public Utilities

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

1/10/2023 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 196](h:\sj\20230110.docx))

1/10/2023 Senate Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([Senate Journal‑page 196](h:\sj\20230110.docx))

1/12/2023 Senate Referred to Subcommittee: Talley (ch), Hutto,
Malloy, Gustafson, Reichenbach

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[01/10/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/331_20230110.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 16‑11‑740, RELATING TO MALICIOUS INJURY TO UTILITY SYSTEMs, SO AS TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF MALICIOUS INJURY OF A GASOLINE, NATURAL GAS, PROPANE, OR ELECTRIC UTILITY BY USE OF A FIREARM OR DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE AND TO establish APPROPRIATE PENALTIES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 16‑11‑740 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 16‑11‑740. (A) It is unlawful for a person, without the consent of the owner, to wilfully:

(1) destroy, damage, or in any way injure a telegraph, telephone, electric utility system, satellite dish, or cable television system, including poles, cables, wires, fixtures, antennas, amplifiers, or other apparatus, equipment, or appliances;

(2) obstruct, impede, or impair their services or transmissions or;

(3) aid, agree with, employ, or conspire with a person to do or cause to be done any of the acts mentioned in this section subsection.

(4) A person who violates the provisions of this section subsection is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined in the discretion of the court or imprisoned not more than ten years.

(B) It is unlawful for a person, without the consent of the owner, to wilfully:

(1) destroy, damage, or in any way injure a gasoline, natural gas, propane, or electric utility system including poles, cables, wires, pipelines, storage containers, fixtures, or other apparatus, equipment, or appliances by means of or use of a firearm or destructive device as defined by Section 16‑23‑710;

(2) obstruct, impede, or impair their services or transmissions, by means of or use of a firearm or destructive device as defined by Section 16‑23‑710; or

(3) to aid, agree with, employ, or conspire with a person to do or cause to be done any of the acts mentioned in this subsection.

(4) A person who violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not less than ten years nor more than twenty‑five years.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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