

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 630

By Senators Rucker, Trump, Woelfel, Deeds, Grady,

Barrett, and Hamilton

[Introduced February 14, 2023; referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §61-5-17a, relating to creating the offense of knowingly and willfully obstructing
 3 a social service worker, a person acting in his or her official capacity; defining social service
 4 worker; and establishing the penalty therefor as life in prison with parole eligibility after
 5 service of 15 years.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5. CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC JUSTICE.

§61-5-17a. Willfully obstructing a social service worker causing death; definitions; penalty.

1 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, any person who knowingly
 2 and willfully obstructs a social service worker lawfully acting in his or her official capacity and
 3 thereby proximately causes the death of a social service worker so acting, is guilty of a felony, and
 4 upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for a term of 15 years to
 5 life.

6 (b) "Social services worker" means a person employed by a governmental or private entity
 7 to provide social services such as investigating allegations of child or adult abuse or neglect,
 8 working with delinquent youth, providing mental health and educational assistance through field
 9 work and home visits.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create the criminal offense of knowingly and willfully obstructing a social service worker, a person acting in his or her official capacity.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.