

HB 640-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2015 SESSION

15-0452  
05/04

HOUSE BILL            **640-FN**  
AN ACT                establishing the crime of criminal coercion.  
SPONSORS:            Rep. Marple, Merr 24; Rep. L. Christiansen, Hills 37  
COMMITTEE:          Criminal Justice and Public Safety

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ANALYSIS

This bill establishes the crime of criminal coercion.

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Explanation:        Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
                         Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]  
                         Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen*

AN ACT                    establishing the crime of criminal coercion.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1            1 New Section; Corrupt Practices; Criminal Coercion. Amend RSA 640 by inserting after section  
2 7 the following new section:

3            640:8 Criminal Coercion.

4            I. A person is guilty of criminal coercion if, with the purpose of unlawfully restricting  
5 another's freedom of action to his or her detriment, the person threatens to:

6                    (a) Commit any criminal offense;

7                    (b) Accuse anyone of a criminal offense;

8                    (c) Expose any secret tending to subject any person to hatred, contempt, or ridicule, or to  
9 impair his or her credit or business repute; or

10                    (d) Take or withhold action as an official, or cause an official to take or withhold action.

11                    (e) Testify or provide information or withhold testimony or information with respect to  
12 another's legal claim or defense; or

13                    (f) Inflict any other harm which would not benefit the actor.

14            II. Any public servant, as defined in RSA 640:2, II, who takes part in an act of criminal  
15 coercion shall be ipso facto removed from office and subject to RSA 92:2.

16            III. Criminal coercion is a class A misdemeanor unless the threat is to commit a felony or the  
17 actor's purpose is felonious, in which cases the offense is a class A felony.

18            2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2016.

LBAO  
15-0452  
01/26/15

**HB 640-FN - FISCAL NOTE**

AN ACT                    establishing the crime of criminal coercion.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Office of Legislative Budget Assistant is unable to complete a fiscal note for this bill, **as introduced**, as it is awaiting information from the Judicial Branch, Department of Corrections, and New Hampshire Association of Counties, who were contacted on 01/08/15. When completed, the fiscal note will be forwarded to the House Clerk's Office.