



2023 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 50

Introduced by: The Committee on Judiciary at the request of the Office of the Attorney General

1 **An Act to revise the crime of witness tampering.**

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

3 **Section 1. That § 22-11-19 be AMENDED:**

4 **22-11-19.** Any person who injures~~,~~ or threatens to injure~~,~~ any person or
 5 property~~,or, with intent to influence a witness,~~ who offers, confers, or agrees to confer
 6 any benefit on a witness or prospective witness in an official proceeding; or who persuades
 7 or influences another person to induce the witness to:

8 (1) Testify falsely;

9 (2) Withhold any testimony, information, document, or thing;

10 (3) Elude legal process summoning the witness to testify or supply evidence; or

11 (4) Absent himself or herself from an official proceeding to which the witness has been
 12 legally summoned;

13 is guilty of tampering with a witness. Any person who injures, or threatens to
 14 injure, any person or property in retaliation for that person testifying in an official
 15 proceeding, or for cooperating with law enforcement, government officials, investigators,
 16 or prosecutors, is guilty of tampering with a witness. Tampering with a witness is a Class
 17 4 felony.