

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2006 SESSION

CHAPTER 457

An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-164 of the Code of Virginia, relating to interfering with emergency use of telephone; penalty.

[H 1263]

Approved March 31, 2006

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 18.2-164 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 18.2-164. Unlawful use of, or injury to, telephone and telegraph lines; copying or obstructing messages; penalty.

~~Any person who shall~~ *A. If any person commits any of the following acts, he is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor:*

~~(1)~~ 1. Maliciously injure, molest, cut down, or destroy any telephone or telegraph line, wire, cable ~~or~~, pole, tower, or the material or property belonging thereto; ~~or~~

~~(2)~~ 2. Maliciously cut, break, tap, or make any connection with any telephone or telegraph line, wire, cable, or instrument of any telegraph or telephone company which has legally acquired the right-of-way by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise; ~~or~~

~~(3)~~ 3. Maliciously copy in any unauthorized manner any message, either social, business, or otherwise, passing over any telephone or telegraph line, wire, ~~or~~ cable, *or wireless telephone transmission* in ~~this the~~ Commonwealth; ~~or~~

~~(4)~~ 4. Willfully or maliciously prevent, obstruct, or delay by any means or contrivance whatsoever the sending, conveyance, or delivery in ~~this the~~ Commonwealth of any authorized communication by or through any telephone or telegraph line, wire, ~~or~~ cable, *or wireless transmission device* under the control of any telephone or telegraph company doing business in ~~this the~~ Commonwealth; ~~or~~

~~(5)~~ 5. Maliciously aid, agree with, employ, or conspire with any unauthorized person or persons unlawfully to do or cause to be done any of the acts hereinbefore mentioned; ~~shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.~~

B. If any person, with the intent to prevent another person from summoning law-enforcement, fire, or rescue services:

1. Commits any act set forth in subsection A; or

2. Maliciously prevents or interferes with telephone or telegraph communication by disabling or destroying any device that enables such communication, whether wired or wireless, he is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.