

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

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

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.

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