

2008 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE BILL NO. 589

Offered January 9, 2008

Prefiled January 8, 2008

A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-55.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to participating in hazing of youth gang members.

Patron—Marsden

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 18.2-55.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 18.2-55.1. Hazing of youth gang members unlawful; criminal liability.

It shall be unlawful to cause bodily injury by hazing (i) any member of a criminal street gang as defined in § 18.2-46.1, or (ii) a person seeking to become a member of a youth gang or criminal street gang. Any person found guilty of hazing is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. *Any person who voluntarily submits to being the subject of hazing is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.*

For the purposes of this section, "hazing" means to (i) recklessly or intentionally endanger the health or safety of a person or to inflict bodily injury on a person or (ii) *engage in an act of carnal knowledge as defined in § 18.2-64.1 with the person who is the subject of hazing*, in connection with or for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with or as a condition for continued membership in a youth gang or criminal street gang regardless of whether the person so endangered, ~~or~~ injured *or who engaged in an act of carnal knowledge* participated voluntarily in the relevant activity.

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HB589