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## HOUSE BILL NO. 2393

## AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee for Courts of Justice  
on February 6, 2009)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Bell)

A *BILL to amend and reenact §18.2-460 of the Code of Virginia, relating to obstructing justice; inclusion of animal control officers.*

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That §18.2-460 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 18.2-460. Obstructing justice; penalty.

A. If any person without just cause knowingly obstructs a judge, magistrate, justice, juror, attorney for the Commonwealth, witness ~~or~~, any law-enforcement officer, *or an animal control officer employed pursuant to § 3.2-6555* in the performance of his duties as such or fails or refuses without just cause to cease such obstruction when requested to do so by such judge, magistrate, justice, juror, attorney for the Commonwealth, witness, ~~or~~ law-enforcement officer, *or an animal control officer employed pursuant to § 3.2-6555*, he shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

B. Except as provided in subsection C, any person who, by threats or force, knowingly attempts to intimidate or impede a judge, magistrate, justice, juror, attorney for the Commonwealth, witness, ~~or~~ any law-enforcement officer, *or an animal control officer employed pursuant to § 3.2-6555* lawfully engaged in his duties as such, or to obstruct or impede the administration of justice in any court, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

C. If any person by threats of bodily harm or force knowingly attempts to intimidate or impede a judge, magistrate, justice, juror, attorney for the Commonwealth, witness, any law-enforcement officer, lawfully engaged in the discharge of his duty, or to obstruct or impede the administration of justice in any court relating to a violation of or conspiracy to violate § 18.2-248 or subdivision (a) (3), (b) or (c) of § 18.2-248.1, or § 18.2-46.2 or § 18.2-46.3, or relating to the violation of or conspiracy to violate any violent felony offense listed in subsection C of § 17.1-805, he shall be guilty of a Class 5 felony.

D. Any person who knowingly and willfully makes any materially false statement or representation to a law-enforcement officer *or an animal control officer employed pursuant to § 3.2-6555* who is in the course of conducting an investigation of a crime by another is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.