

2012 SESSION

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

12105270D

HOUSE BILL NO. 87

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Appropriations
on February 10, 2012)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Knight)

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 5.1-22 of the Code of Virginia, relating to aiming a laser at an aircraft; penalty.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 5.1-22 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 5.1-22. Interference with operation of aircraft; penalties; venue.

Any person who interferes with or threatens to interfere with the operation of any aircraft, *unless he is authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration or the armed forces of the United States*, on or over the territory of ~~this the Commonwealth shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Where~~ where the act or acts of interference or threatened interference are of such a nature as to endanger the life of the aircraft's operator or the life of any other person, the person interfering or threatening to interfere ~~shall be guilty of a Class 6 felony, including any person who knowingly and intentionally projects a laser at an aircraft, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.~~ Venue for the issuance of a warrant for the arrest and trial of any such person is hereby conferred upon any court having criminal jurisdiction in the political subdivision in ~~this the Commonwealth~~ where the aircraft either took off prior to such offense, or where it lands or comes to rest subsequent to such offense, or in or over which the offense occurred.

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