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HOUSE BILL NO. 944

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 7, 2020

A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-419 of the Code of Virginia, relating to picketing or disrupting tranquility of home; exceptions.

Patron—Marshall

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 18.2-419 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 18.2-419. Picketing or disrupting tranquility of home.**

Any person who shall engage in picketing before or about the residence or dwelling place of any individual, or who shall assemble with another person or persons in a manner which disrupts or threatens to disrupt any individual's right to tranquility in his home, shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor. Each day on which a violation of this section occurs shall constitute a separate offense.

Nothing herein shall be deemed to prohibit (1) the picketing in any lawful manner, during a labor dispute, of the place of employment involved in such labor dispute; (2) the picketing in any lawful manner of a construction site; or (3) the holding of a meeting or assembly on any premises commonly used for the discussion of subjects of general public interest.

Notwithstanding the penalties herein provided, any court of general equity jurisdiction *authorized to award injunctions* may enjoin conduct, or threatened conduct, proscribed by this article, and may in any such proceeding award damages, including punitive damages, against the persons found guilty of actions made unlawful by this section.

INTRODUCED

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