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HOUSE BILL NO. 2194

Offered January 13, 2021

Prefiled January 13, 2021

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-83.1, relating to communicating threats of death or bodily injury to a person at any place of assembly, any building or other structure, or any means of transportation; penalty.*

Patron—Leftwich

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 18.2-83.1 as follows:****§ 18.2-83.1. Communicating threats of death or bodily injury to a person at any place of assembly, any building or other structure, or any means of transportation; penalties.**

A. Any person 18 years of age or older who either (i) communicates to another by any means any threat to bomb, burn, destroy, shoot, stab, or in any other manner cause death or bodily injury to persons at any place of assembly, any building or other structure, or any means of mass transportation or (ii) communicates to another by any means information, knowing the same to be false, about any plan to bomb, burn, destroy, shoot, stab, or in any other manner cause death or bodily injury to persons at any place of assembly, any building or other structure, or any means of mass transportation and makes either such communication with the intent to (a) intimidate a civilian population at large, (b) influence the conduct or activities of the government of the United States or any state or local government through intimidation, (c) compel the emergency evacuation of any place of assembly, any building or other structure, or any means of mass transportation through intimidation, or (d) place any person in reasonable apprehension of bodily harm through intimidation is guilty of a Class 5 felony. Any person younger than 18 years of age who commits such offense is guilty of a Class 6 felony.

B. A violation of this section may be prosecuted either in the jurisdiction from which the communication was made or in the jurisdiction where the communication was received.

2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 1289 of the Acts of Assembly of 2020 requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

INTRODUCED

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