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## HOUSE BILL NO. 1867

Offered January 8, 1997

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

Patron—Moore

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

**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.

A. If any person without just cause knowingly obstructs a judge, magistrate, justice, juror, attorney for the Commonwealth, witness, *member of a bona-fide citizen patrol*, or any law-enforcement officer 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, he shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

B. If any person, by threats or force, knowingly attempts to intimidate or impede a judge, magistrate, justice, juror, attorney for the Commonwealth, witness, *member of a bona-fide citizen patrol*, or any law-enforcement officer, lawfully engaged in his duties as such, or to obstruct or impede the administration of justice in any court, he shall be deemed to be 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, witness, or 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 § 18.2-248.1 (a) (3), (b) or (c) he shall be guilty of a Class 5 felony.

*For the purposes of this section, "bona-fide citizen patrol" means any neighborhood watch group, community patrol group or similar citizen patrol group that is sanctioned by, affiliated with, or registered with local law enforcement and has clearly identifiable members. Such member identification shall be in the form of the wearing of a cap, shirt, or jacket that displays clearly visible markings identifying the individual as a member of the group.*

**2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment in state correctional facilities. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation is \$0.**

INTRODUCED

HB1867