

1998 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE BILL NO. 432

Offered January 26, 1998

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 6 of Chapter 10 of Title 18.2 a section numbered 18.2-461.1, relating to the misuse of emergency beacons; penalty.

Patrons—Houck, Bolling, Chichester, Colgan, Miller, Y.B. and Potts; Delegates: Albo, Darner, Kilgore, Orrock and Tate

Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 6 of Chapter 10 of Title 18.2 a section numbered 18.2-461.1 as follows:

§ 18.2-461.1. Misuse of emergency beacon; penalty.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly activate the flashing signal mode of an emergency beacon for any purpose other than to (i) direct law-enforcement, firefighting, or medical emergency personnel to the location of an emergency where human life or property is in jeopardy and the prompt summoning of aid is essential or (ii) test the operation of the beacon's flashing signal mode.

B. For purposes of this section, "emergency beacon" means an incandescent light bulb capable of continuous and intermittent illumination which, under normal conditions, is intended to be used for continuous illumination but, in an emergency, is intended to provide a visual reference point of intermittent light to assist law-enforcement, firefighting, or medical rescue personnel in identifying the location of such emergency. The intermittent light of the bulb's flashing signal mode is activated by rapidly toggling the light's on/off switch twice.

C. A violation of this section shall constitute a Class 4 misdemeanor.

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