

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2013 SESSION

## CHAPTER 431

*An Act to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-1612, 18.2-174, and 18.2-174.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to impersonating a law-enforcement officer or other public safety personnel; penalty.*

[H 1955]

Approved March 16, 2013

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 15.2-1612, 18.2-174, and 18.2-174.1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 15.2-1612. Wearing of same or similar uniforms by unauthorized persons; penalty.**

Any unauthorized person who wears a uniform identical to or substantially similar to a standard uniform used by an office of sheriff in accordance with § 15.2-1610 with the intent to deceive a casual observer or with the intent to impersonate the office of sheriff, ~~shall be~~ *is* guilty of a Class 3 *1* misdemeanor. *A second or subsequent offense is punishable as a Class 6 felony.*

For purposes of this section, "substantially similar" means so similar in appearance as to be likely to deceive the casual observer.

**§ 18.2-174. Impersonating law-enforcement officer; penalty.**

Any person who ~~shall falsely assume or exercise~~ *assumes or exercises* the functions, powers, duties, and privileges incident to the office of sheriff, police officer, marshal, or other peace officer, or who ~~shall falsely assume or pretend~~ *assumes, or pretends*, to be any such officer, ~~shall be deemed~~ *is* guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. *A second or subsequent offense is punishable as a Class 6 felony.*

**§ 18.2-174.1. Impersonating certain public safety personnel; penalty.**

Any person who willfully impersonates, with the intent to make another believe he is, a certified emergency medical services personnel, firefighter, ~~including any~~ special forest warden designated pursuant to § 10.1-1135, fire marshal, or fire chief is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. *A second or subsequent offense is punishable as a Class 6 felony.*

**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, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation is \$4,048 for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities and cannot be determined for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.**

**3. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless an appropriation of general funds effectuating the purposes of this act is included in a general appropriation act passed by the 2013 Session of the General Assembly, which becomes law.**

**4. That the General Assembly determines that the requirements of the third enactment of this act have been met.**