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HOUSE BILL NO. 1195

Offered January 15, 2016

A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-60 of the Code of Virginia, relating to threats of death or bodily injury; penalty.

Patron—Price

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 18.2-60 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 18.2-60. Threats of death or bodily injury to a person or member of his family; threats to commit bodily harm to persons on school property; penalty.

A. 1. Any person who knowingly communicates, ~~in a writing, including an electronically transmitted communication producing a visual or electronic message,~~ a threat to kill or do bodily injury to a person, regarding that person or any member of his family, and the threat places such person in reasonable apprehension of death or bodily injury to himself or his family member, is guilty of a Class 6 felony. However, any person who violates this subsection with the intent to commit an act of terrorism as defined in § 18.2-46.4 is guilty of a Class 5 felony.

2. Any person who communicates a threat, ~~in a writing, including an electronically transmitted communication producing a visual or electronic message,~~ to kill or do bodily harm, (i) on the grounds or premises of any elementary, middle or secondary school property, (ii) at any elementary, middle or secondary school-sponsored event or (iii) on a school bus to any person or persons, regardless of whether the person who is the object of the threat actually receives the threat, and the threat would place the person who is the object of the threat in reasonable apprehension of death or bodily harm, is guilty of a Class 6 felony.

B. Any person who orally makes a threat to any employee of any elementary, middle or secondary school, while on a school bus, on school property or at a school-sponsored activity, to kill or to do bodily injury to such person, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

A prosecution pursuant to this section may be either in the county, city, or town in which the communication was made or 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, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation is at least \$227,666 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.