

# 2020 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

20200193D

## SENATE BILL NO. 5053

Offered August 18, 2020

Prefiled August 17, 2020

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-423 of the Code of Virginia, relating to burning cross on property of another or public place with intent to intimidate; penalty.*

Patron—Reeves

Referred to Committee on the Judiciary

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

**1. That § 18.2-423 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 18.2-423. Burning cross on property of another or public place with intent to intimidate; penalty; prima facie evidence of intent.**

It shall be unlawful for any person or persons, with the intent of intimidating any person or group of persons, to burn, or cause to be burned, a cross on the property of another, a highway, or other public place. Any person who shall violate any provision of this section shall be guilty of a ~~Class 6 felony~~ *Class 4 felony*.

Any such burning of a cross shall be prima facie evidence of an intent to intimidate a person or group of persons.

**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 is \$0 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.**

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