

By the Committee on Criminal Justice and Senator Saunders

307-1946-00

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the misuse of hand-held  
3           laser lighting devices; creating s. 784.062,  
4           F.S.; defining the term "laser lighting  
5           device"; providing that it is a second-degree  
6           misdemeanor for a person to knowingly and  
7           willfully shine the beam of a laser lighting  
8           device at a law enforcement officer in such a  
9           manner as to cause the law enforcement officer  
10          to believe that a firearm is pointed at him or  
11          her; providing penalties; providing an  
12          effective date.

14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16           Section 1. Section 784.062, Florida Statutes, is  
17 created to read:

18           784.062 Misuse of laser lighting devices.--

19           (1) As used in this section, the term "laser lighting  
20 device" means a hand-held device, not affixed to a firearm,  
21 which emits a laser beam that is designed to be used by the  
22 operator as a pointer or highlighter to indicate, mark, or  
23 identify a specific position, place, item, or object.

24           (2) Any person who knowingly and willfully shines,  
25 points, or focuses the beam of a laser lighting device at a  
26 law enforcement officer, engaged in the performance of his or  
27 her official duties, in such a manner that would cause a  
28 reasonable person to believe that a firearm is pointed at him  
29 or her commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable  
30 as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

31           Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2000.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
Senate Bill 278

The CS eliminated the third degree felony and first degree misdemeanor offenses created in the original bill. The CS creates a second degree misdemeanor offense for knowingly and willfully shining a laser pointer at a law enforcement officer who is engaged in the performance of his or her official duties, in such a manner that would cause a reasonable person to believe that a firearm is being pointed at them.