

By Representative McGriff

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 to knowingly and willfully shine  
7           the beam of a laser lighting device at a law  
8           enforcement officer in such a manner as to  
9           cause the law enforcement officer to believe  
10          that a firearm is pointed at him or her;  
11          providing a penalty; providing an effective  
12          date.

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

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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, 2002.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Provides that it is a second degree misdemeanor to knowingly and willfully shine the beam of a laser lighting device, commonly known as a "laser pointer," at a law enforcement officer in such a manner as to cause the law enforcement officer to believe that a firearm is pointed at him or her.