

1 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

2 FOR

3 **Senate Bill No. 222**

4 (By Senators Beach, Laird and Klempa)

5 _____
6 [Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary;

7 reported February 2, 2012.]
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9
10 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
11 adding thereto a new section, designated §61-5-17a, relating
12 to making it a criminal offense for any person to
13 intentionally interfere with or prevent an individual from
14 calling for the assistance of emergency service personnel;
15 defining terms; and establishing penalties.

16 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

17 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
18 by adding thereto a new section, designated §61-5-17a, to read as
19 follows:

20 **ARTICLE 5. CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC JUSTICE.**

21 **§61-5-17a. Willful interference with a call for emergency**
22 **services.**

23 (a) Any person, with the intent to deprive any other person of
24 emergency services, who interferes with or prevents another person
25 from: (1) Using or accessing a 911 emergency telephone system;

1 (2) Making a report to a law-enforcement officer or agency or fire
2 department; or (3) Requesting emergency medical assistance shall be
3 guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be confined in
4 jail for not more than six months, or fined not less than \$100 nor
5 more than \$500, or both.

6 (b) As used in this section, to "interfere with or prevent"
7 includes, but is not limited to, the seizure, concealment,
8 obstructing access to or disabling or disconnection of a telephone,
9 telephone line or equipment or other communication device.