

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

Senate Bill No. 222

(By Senators Beach, Laird and Klempa)

[Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary;
reported February 2, 2012.]

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

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

ARTICLE 5. CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC JUSTICE.

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

1 (a) Any person, with the intent to deprive any other
2 person of emergency services, who interferes with or pre-
3 vents another person from: (1) Using or accessing a 911
4 emergency telephone system; (2) Making a report to a
5 law-enforcement officer or agency or fire department; or (3)
6 Requesting emergency medical assistance shall be guilty of
7 a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be confined in jail
8 for not more than six months, or fined not less than \$100 nor
9 more than \$500, or both.

10 (b) As used in this section, to “interfere with or prevent”
11 includes, but is not limited to, the seizure, concealment,
12 obstructing access to or disabling or disconnection of a
13 telephone, telephone line or equipment or other communica-
14 tion device.