

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Discharging a laser at an aircraft

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Overview

This bill makes it a felony crime to discharge a laser into the cockpit of an aircraft.

Section

1 Discharging a Laser at an Aircraft.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines laser and aircraft for purposes of this section.

Subd. 2. Crime. Provides that a person who knowingly aims and discharges a laser or other device that creates visible light into the cockpit of an aircraft while it is taking off, landing, or in flight, is guilty of a felony. Provides a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment or a \$10,000 fine, or both.

Subd. 3. Exceptions. Provides that this section does not apply to the following individuals: (1) an authorized individual conducting research or flight test operations by an aircraft manufacturer, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), or any other person authorized by the FAA; or (2) members of the Department of Defense or Department of Homeland Security acting in an official capacity for the purpose of research, development, operations, testing, or training.

Subd. 4. Defense. Provides an affirmative defense if a defendant intended to send an emergency distress signal.

Effective Date: August 1, 2009.