

Drafted & Reviewed
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AMENDMENT TO BILL NO. 30-0047

Offered by Senator Judi Buckley

Bill No. 30-0047 is amended in the following instances:

(a) Section 1, internal §1508, subsection (a) is amended:

- (1) after both occurrences of the word, 'officer', by inserting "firefighter, or first responder";
- (2) after first occurrence of the word, 'officer's', by inserting 'firefighter, or first responder's'
- (3) striking "the last occurrence of 'the peace officer's'; and;

(b) An appropriately numbered section is added

"SECTION ____ Title 14 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 75 is amended by adding section 1508a to read as follows:

***§1508a. Malicious interference with emergency communications**

(a) As used in this section

- (1) 'Emergency communication' means any telephone call or any other form of communication made, transmitted or facilitated by radio, computer, or any other electronic device which is intended by its maker to provide warning or information pertaining to any crime, fire, accident, disaster or risk of injury or damage to any person or property.
- (2) 'Emergency communications center' means any public or private facility or entity that accepts emergency communications for the purpose of

notifying, dispatching, directing or coordinating law enforcement, fire, medical, emergency medical services provider, paramedic, ambulance, rescue, utility or other public safety personnel.

- (b) A person is guilty of malicious interference with emergency communications punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or by both such fine and imprisonment, when the person:
- (1) Intentionally prevents or hinders the initiation, making, or completion of an emergency communication by another person; or
 - (2) Intentionally initiates or makes repeated nonemergency communications to any 911 or other emergency communications center, knowing it was thereby likely that the operations of the emergency communications center would be disrupted.”

AMENDMENT SUMMARY

Subsection (a) of this amendment amends section 1 of the bill by making it unlawful to interfere with the duties of firefighters and first responders, in addition to prohibiting interference with peace officers. Subsection (b) of the amendment adds a section to the bill which proscribes the malicious interference with emergency communications.

Amendment No. 30-822/March 19, 2014/YLT