

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1615

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for aiming laser pointers at airplanes, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2007

Mr. KELLER of Florida (for himself and Mr. FORBES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for aiming laser pointers at airplanes, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Securing Aircraft  
5 Cockpits Against Lasers Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST AIMING A LASER POINTER**

7 **AT AN AIRCRAFT.**

8 (a) OFFENSE.—Chapter 2 of title 18, United States  
9 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“§ 39A. Aiming a laser pointer at an aircraft**

2 “(a) Whoever knowingly aims the beam of a laser  
3 pointer at an aircraft in the special aircraft jurisdiction  
4 of the United States, or at the flight path of such an air-  
5 craft, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not  
6 more than 5 years, or both.

7 “(b) As used in this section, the term ‘laser pointer’  
8 means any device designed or used to amplify electro-  
9 magnetic radiation by stimulated emission that emits a  
10 beam designed to be used by the operator as a pointer  
11 or highlighter to indicate, mark, or identify a specific posi-  
12 tion, place, item, or object.

13 “(c) This section does not prohibit aiming a beam  
14 of a laser pointer at an aircraft, or the flight path of such  
15 an aircraft, by—

16 “(1) an authorized individual in the conduct of  
17 research and development or flight test operations  
18 conducted by an aircraft manufacturer, the Federal  
19 Aviation Administration, or any other person author-  
20 ized by the Federal Aviation Administration to con-  
21 duct such research and development or flight test  
22 operations;

23 “(2) members or elements of the Department of  
24 Defense or Department of Homeland Security acting  
25 in an official capacity for the purpose of research,  
26 development, operations, testing or training; or

1           “(3) by an individual using a laser emergency  
2           signaling device to send an emergency distress sig-  
3           nal.

4           “(d) The Attorney General, in consultation with the  
5           Secretary of Transportation, may provide by regulation,  
6           after public notice and comment, such additional excep-  
7           tions to this section, as may be necessary and appropriate.  
8           The Attorney General shall provide written notification of  
9           any proposed regulations under this section to the Com-  
10          mittees on the Judiciary of the House and Senate, the  
11          Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the  
12          House, and the Committee on Commerce, Science and  
13          Transportation in the Senate not less than 90 days before  
14          such regulations become final.”.

15          (b) AMENDMENT TO TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The  
16          table of sections at the beginning of chapter 2 of title 18,  
17          United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
18          following new item:

“39A. Aiming a laser pointer at an aircraft.”.

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