

Union Calendar No. 89

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1615

[Report No. 110-149]

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

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

MAY 14, 2007

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST AIMING A LASER POINTER**
2 **AT AN AIRCRAFT.**

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

5 **“§ 39A. Aiming a laser pointer at an aircraft**

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

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

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

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

1 “(2) members or elements of the Department of
2 Defense or Department of Homeland Security acting
3 in an official capacity for the purpose of research,
4 development, operations, testing or training; or

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

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

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

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

23 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

24 *This Act may be cited as the “Securing Aircraft Cock-*
25 *pits Against Lasers Act of 2007”.*

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST AIMING A LASER POINTER**
2 **AT AN AIRCRAFT.**

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

5 **“§ 39A. Aiming a laser pointer at an aircraft**

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

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

17 “(c) *This section does not prohibit aiming a beam of*
18 *a laser pointer at an aircraft, or the flight path of such*
19 *an aircraft, by—*

20 “(1) *an authorized individual in the conduct of*
21 *research and development or flight test operations*
22 *conducted by an aircraft manufacturer, the Federal*
23 *Aviation Administration, or any other person author-*
24 *ized by the Federal Aviation Administration to con-*
25 *duct such research and development or flight test op-*
26 *erations;*

1 “(2) members or elements of the Department of
2 *Defense or Department of Homeland Security acting*
3 *in an official capacity for the purpose of research, de-*
4 *velopment, operations, testing or training; or*

5 “(3) by an individual using a laser emergency
6 *signaling device to send an emergency distress signal.*

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

18 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at*
19 *the beginning of chapter 2 of title 18, United States Code,*
20 *is amended by adding at the end the following new item:*

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

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