

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R4284 EMT-F

H.B. 831
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Criminal Justice
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Current law provides no penalty for the directing of light from a laser pointer at a uniformed safety officer. Laser pointers mimic sighting lasers on firearms, which may cause an officer to act as if his or her life is in danger. H.B. 831 provides that a person who knowingly directs light from a laser pointer at a uniformed safety officer commits a Class C misdemeanor.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 42, Penal Code, by adding Section 42.13, as follows:

Sec. 42.13. USE OF LASER POINTERS. (a) Provides that a person commits an offense if the person knowingly directs a light from a laser pointer at a uniformed safety officer, including a peace officer, security guard, firefighter, emergency medical service worker, or other uniformed municipal, state, or federal officer.

(b) Defines "laser pointer."

(c) Provides that an offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2003.