

**Senate Bill No. 212**

(By Senators Snyder, Green, Klempa, McCabe, Williams, Sypolt,  
Palumbo, Foster, Beach and Wills)

**Interim  
Bill**

[Introduced January 17, 2011; referred to the Committee on the  
Judiciary.]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by  
adding thereto a new section, designated §61-3-49b, relating  
to the disruption of emergency communication; defining terms;  
and establishing criminal penalties.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended  
by adding thereto a new section, designated §61-3-49b, to read as  
follows:

**ARTICLE 3. CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY.**

**§61-3-49b. Disruption of emergency communications.**

(a) No person may:

(1) Intentionally prevent or hinder the initiation, making or  
completion of an emergency or other such communication by another  
person; or

1           (2) Disrupt emergency or other such communication by theft of  
2 equipment or other means with the intent to remove such equipment  
3 to commit larceny.

4           (b) For the purpose of this section, "emergency communication"  
5 means any means of communication that allows the transmission of  
6 warnings or other information pertaining to any crime, fire,  
7 accident, power outage, disaster or risk of injury or damage to any  
8 person or property, including but not limited to, telephone lines,  
9 cellular telephone towers and equipment, radio channels, railroad  
10 communication devices, electrical towers and equipment, and utility  
11 lines.

12           (c) Any person that violates any provision of this section is  
13 guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be confined  
14 in a correctional facility not more than ten years or fined not  
15 more than \$10,000, or both.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to make it a criminal offense to disrupt emergency communications.

§61-3-49b is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.

This bill was recommended for introduction and passage during the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature by the Joint Standing Committee on Government Organization.