

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2066

By Delegates Akers, Hall, D. Smith, T. Howell,
Drennan, Leavitt, Heckert, Hornby and Kelly

[Introduced February 12, 2025; referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated as §61-3-60, relating to damage, destruction, or theft of property or equipment
3 used by first responders; definition; and criminal penalties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3. CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY.

§61-3-60. Damage, destruction, or theft of equipment used by first responders; criminal penalties.

1 (a) Any person who knowingly and willfully damages, destroys, or steals any equipment, or
2 personal property, owned or operated by the state, county, municipality, or volunteer fire
3 department of this state, that is used by first responders in the performance of their duties, whether
4 that equipment or personal property is in use or maintained in a garage or other building, structure,
5 or location, and that action thereby creates a substantial risk of bodily injury to another person, or
6 results in property loss, or the interruption of service by first responders to the public, is guilty of a
7 felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$5,000, or imprisoned in a state
8 correctional facility not less than one nor more than three years, or both fined and imprisoned.
9 (b) For purposes of this section, the term "first responder" includes law-enforcement
10 officers, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, volunteer fire departments and
11 others who respond to calls for emergency medical assistance as defined in §55-7-26.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create a felony offense of damaging, destroying, or stealing equipment used by first responders in their duties.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.