

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2025 REGULAR SESSION**

### **ENGROSSED**

#### **Committee Substitute**

**for**

#### **House Bill 2066**

By Delegates Akers, Hall, D. Smith, T. Howell,  
Drennan, Leavitt, Kyle, Heckert, Hornby, and Kelly  
[Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary;  
Reported on February 20, 2025]



A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated as §61-3-60, relating to damage, destruction, or theft of property or equipment used by emergency responders; creating a felony offense for damaging, destroying, or stealing certain property of an emergency responder; creating elements of the new felony offense; specifying that felony offense is a separate and distinct offense; creating definitions; and creating 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 emergency responders;**

<b>criminal</b>	<b>penalties.</b>
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(a) Any person who knowingly and willfully damages, destroys, or commits the larceny of any equipment, or personal property, owned or operated by the state, a county or a municipality of this state, or a volunteer fire department of this state, that is used by emergency responders in the performance of emergency response duties, whether that equipment or personal property is in use or maintained in a garage or other building, structure, or location, and that action thereby creates a substantial risk of bodily injury or actual bodily injury to another person, results in property loss to any person served by the emergency responder, or results in the interruption of service by emergency responders to the public, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$5,000, or imprisoned in a state correctional facility not less than one nor more than three years, or both fined and imprisoned.

(b) The offense established by this section shall be in addition to and a separate and  
distinct offense from any other offense set forth in this code.

(c) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Emergency responder" has the same meaning as that term is defined in §5H-1-2 of  
this code and shall additionally include any entity of a political subdivision of the state providing

16 emergency services pursuant to the provisions of §15-5-8 of this code and any county  
17 commission, political subdivision, or county 911 public safety answering point.

18 (2) "Emergency response duties" has the same meaning as that term is defined in §5H-1-2  
19 of this code and shall additionally include disaster response activities and emergency services as  
20 those terms are defined in §15-5-2 of this code and activities of a county commission, political  
21 subdivision, or county 911 public safety answering point in providing emergency responder  
22 services.