

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4052

By Delegate Pritt

[Introduced January 14, 2026; referred to the

Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article,
2 designated §17C-14-9b, relating to establishing the HALO Act; relating to impeding
3 threatening, or harassing first responders; providing definitions; prohibiting approaching a
4 first responder who is engaged in the lawful performance of a legal duty after a warning is
5 issued, from violating such warning and approaching or remaining within a specified
6 distance of the first responder with specified intent; and providing criminal penalties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE	14.	MISCELLANEOUS	RULES.
<u>§17C-14-9b.</u>		HALO	<u>Act.</u>
1	<u>(a) As used in this section, the term:</u>		
2	<u>(1) "First responder" includes a law enforcement officer as defined in §23-4-1f of this code,</u>		
3	<u>or a correctional probation officer and an emergency medical care provider.</u>		
4	<u>(2) "Harass" means to engage in a course of conduct directed at a first responder which</u>		
5	<u>causes substantial emotional distress in that first responder.</u>		
6	<u>(b)(1) It is unlawful for a person, after receiving a warning not to approach from a first</u>		
7	<u>responder who is engaged in the lawful performance of a legal duty, to violate such warning and</u>		
8	<u>approach or remain within 14 feet of the first responder with the intent to:</u>		
9	<u>(A) Interrupt, disrupt, hinder, impede, or interfere with the first responder's ability to perform</u>		
10	<u>such duty;</u>		
11	<u>(B) Threaten the first responder with physical harm; or</u>		
12	<u>(C) Harass the first responder by interfering with the first responder performing such duty.</u>		
13	<u>(2) A person who violates this subsection commits a misdemeanor of obstructing an officer,</u>		
14	<u>punishable as provided in §61-5-17 of this code.</u>		

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish the HALO law.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law

and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.