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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: February 12, 2025

Subject: Bill Brief on SB 156

Senate Bill 156 creates the crime of unlawful use of a laser pointer and provides criminal penalties therefor.

The bill enacts a new provision of law defining unlawful use of a laser pointer as knowingly directing light from a laser pointer at (1) a law enforcement officer while such officer is engaged in the performance of such officer's duties or (2) an aircraft in flight or the flight path of an aircraft.

The penalty for violation of paragraph (1) would be a class A person misdemeanor and the penalty for violation of paragraph (2) would be a severity level 9, person felony. The provisions of the new section related to aircraft do not apply to any person authorized by an aircraft manufacturer or the federal aviation administration to conduct research and development or flight test operations while doing so, members or elements of the department of defense or homeland security acting in an official capacity or an individual using a laser emergency signaling device to send an emergency distress signal.

As used in this section a "laser pointer" means a device that emits light amplified by the stimulated emission of radiation that is visible to the human eye. A person who violates the provisions of this section may also be prosecuted for, convicted of and punished for assault or battery.