

CHAPTER 1044

S.B. No. 102

AN ACT

relating to creating an offense for damaging or disabling a fire exit alarm.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Title 63, Revised Statutes, is amended by adding Article 3972.3 to read as follows:

*Art. 3972.3. DISABLING FIRE EXIT ALARM*

*Sec. 1. DEFINITIONS. In this article:*

(1) *"Fire exit" means a door, window, or other means of egress from a building that has been expressly designated as a fire escape or emergency exit by means of a sign, light, or other device located on or in the immediate vicinity of the fire escape or exit.*

(2) *"Fire exit alarm" means a device designed to cause an alarm to be sounded or to alert a person if a fire exit is opened or if an attempt to open a fire exit is made.*

*Sec. 2. OFFENSE. (a) A person commits an offense if:*

*(1) the person intentionally or knowingly causes a fire exit alarm to fail to sound an alarm; and*

*(2) the person is not authorized to do so by a person having lawful custody or control of the building or the part of the building in which the fire exit is located.*

*(b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.*

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 1987.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed the Senate on April 30, 1987, by a viva-voce vote. Passed the House on May 22, 1987, by a non-record vote.

Approved June 20, 1987.

Effective Sept. 1, 1987.