

# CHAPTER 2002-80

## Senate Bill No. 626

An act relating to the misuse of hand-held laser lighting devices; creating s. 784.062, F.S.; defining the term “laser lighting device”; providing that it is a second degree misdemeanor to knowingly and willfully shine the beam of a laser lighting device at a law enforcement officer in such a manner as to cause the law enforcement officer to believe that a firearm is pointed at him or her; providing a penalty; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 784.062, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

784.062 Misuse of laser lighting devices.—

(1) As used in this section, the term “laser lighting device” means a hand-held device, not affixed to a firearm, which emits a laser beam that is designed to be used by the operator as a pointer or highlighter to indicate, mark, or identify a specific position, place, item, or object.

(2) Any person who knowingly and willfully shines, points, or focuses the beam of a laser lighting device at a law enforcement officer, engaged in the performance of his or her official duties, in such a manner that would cause a reasonable person to believe that a firearm is pointed at him or her commits a noncriminal violation, punishable as provided in s. 775.083.

Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2002.

Approved by the Governor April 23, 2002.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 23, 2002.