

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 975 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY O'PAKE, HUGHES, TARTAGLIONE, RAFFERTY, FONTANA,
WAUGH, BOSCOLA, LOGAN AND STACK, JUNE 22, 2009

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, JUNE 22, 2009

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, further providing for false alarms to
3 agencies of public safety.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 4905 of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 4905. False alarms to agencies of public safety.

9 (a) Offense defined.--A person commits an offense if he
10 knowingly causes a false alarm of fire or other emergency to be
11 transmitted to or within any organization[, official or
12 volunteer, for dealing with] that is directed or authorized by
13 law to respond to emergencies involving danger to life or
14 property.

15 (b) Grading.--An offense under this section is a misdemeanor
16 of the first degree unless [the transmission of the] a person
17 knowingly causes the transmission of a false Amber Alert, or
18 knowingly causes the transmission of a false alarm of fire or

1 other emergency [occurs] during a declared state of emergency
2 [and the false alarm] that causes the resources of [the
3 organization] an organization directed or authorized by law to
4 respond to emergencies involving danger to life or property to
5 be diverted from dealing with the declared state of emergency,
6 in which case the offense is a felony of the third degree.

7 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.