

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 23-0535.01 Chelsea Princell x4335

SENATE BILL 23-095

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Ginal and Gardner,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Soper and Daugherty,

Senate Committees
Judiciary

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CRIMINALIZING UNLAWFULLY POINTING A LASER DEVICE**
102 **AT AN AIRCRAFT.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill creates a class 6 felony for a person who knowingly points, focuses, or aims a laser device at an aircraft.

The bill provides exemptions for a person who points a laser device at an aircraft under certain circumstances.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 18-3-210 as
3 follows:

4 **18-3-210. Unlawfully aiming a laser device at an aircraft -**
5 **definitions.** (1) A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY POINTS, FOCUSES, OR AIMS
6 THE BEAM OF A LASER DEVICE AT AN AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT OR ON THE
7 GROUND WHILE OCCUPIED COMMITS THE OFFENSE OF UNLAWFULLY AIMING
8 A LASER DEVICE AT AN AIRCRAFT, WHICH IS A CLASS 6 FELONY.

9 (2) THE OFFENSE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION
10 DOES NOT APPLY IF THE PERSON:

11 (a) IS AN AUTHORIZED INDIVIDUAL CONDUCTING RESEARCH AND
12 DEVELOPMENT OR FLIGHT TEST OPERATIONS FOR AN AIRCRAFT
13 MANUFACTURER OR THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, OR ANY
14 OTHER PERSON AUTHORIZED BY THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
15 TO CONDUCT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OR FLIGHT TEST OPERATIONS;

16 (b) IS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
17 OR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ACTING IN
18 AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT,
19 OPERATIONS, TESTING, OR TRAINING; OR

20 (c) USES A LASER DEVICE WITH THE INTENT OF SENDING AN
21 EMERGENCY DISTRESS SIGNAL.

22 (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
23 REQUIRES:

24 (a) "AIRCRAFT" MEANS A DEVICE MANNED BY A PERSON THAT IS
25 USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED FOR FLIGHT IN THE AIR.

26 (b) "LASER DEVICE" MEANS ANY DEVICE DESIGNED OR USED TO
27 AMPLIFY ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION BY STIMULATED EMISSION THAT

1 EMITS A BEAM IN THE ULTRAVIOLET, VISIBLE, OR INFRARED REGION OF THE
2 SPECTRUM.

3 **SECTION 2. Effective date - applicability.** This act takes effect
4 July 1, 2023, and applies to offenses committed on or after said date.

5 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
6 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
7 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.