

# State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2002

184H0609

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1224

Introduced by: Representatives Hunhoff, Abdallah, Murschel, and Pitts and Senators Daugaard, Craddock, Hutmacher, Madden, and Moore

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to prohibit interference with the use of communication  
2 devices to summon emergency aid.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. Terms used in this Act mean:

5 (1) "Communication device," any device, including a telephone, cellular telephone,  
6 computer, or radio which may be used in an attempt to summon law enforcement, fire  
7 department, medical, or other emergency personnel;

8 (2) "Emergency," any situation in which property or human health or safety is in jeopardy,  
9 and the prompt summoning of aid is essential to the preservation of the property or  
10 human safety or health.

11 Section 2. If a person is attempting to summon emergency aid or has communicated a desire  
12 to summon emergency aid, no person may prohibit or interrupt, or attempt to prohibit or  
13 interrupt, another person's use of a communication device by either of the following:

14 (1) Using or threatening to use verbal or physical force, intimidation, interference, or any  
15 other form of violence; or



- 1 (2) Destroying, disabling, or damaging a communication device.
- 2 A violation of this section is a Class 1 misdemeanor.