

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2893

To amend title 46, United States Code, to prohibit causing the beam of a laser pointer to strike a vessel operating on the navigable waters of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2019

Mr. ROUDA (for himself and Mr. GIBBS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 46, United States Code, to prohibit causing the beam of a laser pointer to strike a vessel operating on the navigable waters of the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Boater Protection from
5 Laser Pointers Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AIMING A LASER POINTER AT A VESSEL.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 700 of
3 title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
4 end the following:

5 **“§ 70014. Aiming a laser pointer at a vessel**

6 “(a) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful to cause the
7 beam of a laser pointer to strike a vessel operating on the
8 navigable waters of the United States.

9 “(b) EXCEPTIONS.—This section shall not apply to
10 a member or element of the Department of Defense or
11 Department of Homeland Security acting in an official ca-
12 pacity for the purpose of research, development, oper-
13 ations, testing, or training.

14 “(c) LASER POINTER DEFINED.—In this section the
15 term ‘laser pointer’ means any device designed or used to
16 amplify electromagnetic radiation by stimulated emission
17 that emits a beam designed to be used by the operator
18 as a pointer or highlighter to indicate, mark, or identify
19 a specific position, place, item, or object.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such
21 chapter is amended by adding at the end of the items re-
22 lating to such subchapter the following:

“70014. Aiming a laser pointer at a vessel.”.

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