

ASSEMBLY, No. 4882

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 26, 2020

Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY
District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Criminalizes the use of “signal jammers.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning certain interference with communications and
2 amending P.L.2005, c.293.

3
4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2005, c.293 (C.2C:33-23.1) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. A person shall not:

10 a. Make, or cause to be made, a radio transmission of energy in
11 this State unless the person obtains a license, or an exemption from
12 licensure, from the Federal Communications Commission pursuant
13 to 47 U.S.C. s.301, or other applicable federal law or regulation; or

14 b. Do any act to cause an unlicensed radio transmission of
15 energy or interference with a public or commercial radio station
16 licensed by the Federal Communications Commission or to enable
17 the radio transmission of energy or interference to occur~~【.】~~;

18 c. Interfere with or cause interference to any radio
19 communications of any station licensed or authorized by or under
20 any federal law or regulation or operated by the United States
21 government; or

22 d. In violation of federal law or regulation, use any scanning
23 receiver that is capable of

24 (1) receiving transmissions in the frequencies allocated to the
25 domestic cellular radio telecommunications service;

26 (2) readily being altered by the user to receive transmissions in
27 such frequencies; or

28 (3) being equipped with decoders that convert digital cellular
29 transmissions to analog voice audio.

30 e. As used in this section, "radio transmission of energy" has
31 the same meaning given that term under 47 U.S.C. s.153.

32 (cf: P.L.2005, c.293, s.1)

33
34 2. Section 2 of P.L.2005, c.293 (C.2C:33-23.2) is amended to
35 read as follows:

36 2. A person who violates the provisions of ~~【this act】~~ P.L.2005,
37 c.293 as amended by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
38 Legislature as this bill) is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree.

39 (cf: P.L.2005, c.293, s.2)

40
41 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

42 43 STATEMENT

44
45 This bill would criminalize the use of "signal jammers" under

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 State law. Such devices are already illegal under federal law.

2 “Signal jammers,” which are also known as signal blockers,
3 GPS jammers, cell phone jammers, and text blockers, are radio
4 frequency transmitters that are designed to block, jam, or otherwise
5 interfere with authorized radio communications. These devices can
6 prevent cell phones from making or receiving calls, texts, and
7 emails; block Wi-Fi devices from connecting to the Internet;
8 prevent a GPS from receiving correct positioning signals; and
9 prevent a first responder from locating a person in an emergency.

10 Under current New Jersey law, it is a crime of the fourth degree
11 to make, or cause to be made, a radio transmission of energy in this
12 State unless the person obtains a license, or an exemption from
13 licensure, from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
14 pursuant to applicable federal law or regulation, or to do any act to
15 cause an unlicensed radio transmission of energy or interference
16 with a public or commercial radio station licensed by the FCC.

17 This bill provides that it would also be a crime of the fourth
18 degree to interfere with or cause interference to any radio
19 communications of any station licensed or authorized by or under
20 any federal law or regulation or operated by the United States
21 government; or, in violation of federal law or regulation, to use any
22 scanning receiver that is capable of:

23 (1) receiving transmissions in the frequencies allocated to the
24 domestic cellular radio telecommunications service,

25 (2) readily being altered by the user to receive transmissions in
26 such frequencies, or

27 (3) being equipped with decoders that convert digital cellular
28 transmissions to analog voice audio.

29 The provisions of this bill are also set out in federal law,
30 specifically in 47 U.S.C. s.301 and 47 U.S.C. s.333.