

# State of Wisconsin



1999 Assembly Bill 154

Date of enactment: **May 12, 2000**  
Date of publication\*: **May 26, 2000**

## 1999 WISCONSIN ACT 157

AN ACT to create 941.299 of the statutes; relating to: restrictions on the use of laser pointers and providing a penalty.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**SECTION 1.** 941.299 of the statutes is created to read:  
**941.299 Restrictions on the use of laser pointers.**

(1) In this section:

(a) "Correctional officer" has the meaning given in s. 941.237 (1) (b).

(b) "Laser pointer" means a hand-held device that uses light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation to emit a beam of light that is visible to the human eye.

(c) "Law enforcement officer" means a Wisconsin law enforcement officer, as defined in s. 175.46 (1) (g), or a federal law enforcement officer, as defined in s. 175.40 (7) (a) 1.

(2) No person may do any of the following:

(a) Intentionally direct a beam of light from a laser pointer at any part of the body of a correctional officer or law enforcement officer without the officer's consent, if the person knows or has reason to know that the victim is a correctional officer or law enforcement officer who is acting in an official capacity.

(b) Intentionally and for no legitimate purpose direct a beam of light from a laser pointer at any part of the body of any human being.

(c) Intentionally direct a beam of light from a laser pointer in a manner that could reasonably be expected to alarm, intimidate, threaten or terrify another person.

(d) Intentionally direct a beam of light from a laser pointer in a manner that, under the circumstances, tends to disrupt any public or private event or create or provoke a disturbance.

(3) (a) Whoever violates sub. (2) (a) is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

(b) Whoever violates sub. (2) (b), (c) or (d) is subject to a Class B forfeiture.

(c) A person may be charged with a violation of sub. (2) (a) or (b) or both for an act involving the same victim. If the person is charged with violating both sub. (2) (a) and (b) with respect to the same victim, the charges shall be joined. If the person is found guilty of both sub. (2) (a) and (b) for an act involving the same victim, the charge under sub. (2) (b) shall be dismissed and the person may be sentenced only under sub. (2) (a).

**SECTION 2. Initial applicability.**

(1) This act first applies to offenses occurring on the effective date of this subsection.

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\* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES 1997-98: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication as designated" by the secretary of state [the date of publication may not be more than 10 working days after the date of enactment].