

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** S.F. 1408  
**Version:** As introduced

**DATE:** May 1, 2009

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**Subject:** Discharging a laser at an aircraft

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### Overview

This bill makes it a gross misdemeanor crime to discharge a laser into the cockpit of an aircraft.

Section

#### **1 Discharging a laser at an aircraft.**

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines laser and aircraft for purposes of this section.

**Subd. 2. Crime.** Provides that a person who knowingly aims and discharges a laser or other device that creates visible light into the cockpit of an aircraft while it is taking off, landing, or in flight, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

**Subd. 3. Exceptions.** Provides that this section does not apply to the following individuals: (1) an authorized individual conducting research or flight test operations by an aircraft manufacturer, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), or any other person authorized by the FAA; or (2) members of the Department of Defense or Department of Homeland Security acting in an official capacity for the purpose of research, development, operations, testing, or training.

**Subd. 4. Defense.** Provides an affirmative defense if a defendant intended to send an emergency distress signal.

Effective Date: August 1, 2009.