

HB 1207 – Assault or Battery on Healthcare Providers (Similar SB 1712)

This bill adds healthcare providers to s. 784.07, F.S., which addresses assault or battery of law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical providers, public transit employees, etc. Healthcare provider is defined as “a physician, registered nurse, employee, agent, or volunteer of a hospital, as defined in s. 395.002, who is employed, under contract, or otherwise authorized by such a hospital to perform duties directly associated with the care and treatment rendered by the hospital.” Offenses under this statute are reclassified as follows:

Assault increased from 2nd degree misdemeanor to 1st degree misdemeanor;
Battery from 1st degree misdemeanor to 3rd degree felony
Aggravated assault from 3rd degree felony to 2nd degree felony
Aggravated battery from 2nd degree felony to 1st degree felony

Large numbers come to prison each year with these offenses as primary. 1,996 (adj.) were sentenced in FY 15-16 with 511 (adj.) sentenced to prison. **See Handout.** It is unknown how large the healthcare provider victim pool is, but simple battery is the most common felony offense and the incarceration rate is low (19.2% adj.). CJIC has heard bills with the same provisions in prior years and found them to have an insignificant impact due to low volume.

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Positive Insignificant

Requested by: House

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These bills add healthcare providers to the list of professions in s. 784.07, F.S. , which increases the felony degree of assault and battery offenses when the victim is a healthcare provider.

Current assault and battery offenses on law enforcement and other professions (s. 784.07, F.S.)

Statute	Primary Offense	Felony Degree	Offense Severity Level	Criminal Code Lowest Permissible Sentence (in months) ¹	Maximum Sentence Under Criminal Code (Based on degree)	Number Sentenced FY 15-16 ²	Number Receiving Prison ²	Percent Receiving Prison	Mean Sentence Length (in months)
784.087(2)(b)	BATTERY; OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER OR INTAKE OFFICER, ETC.	3rd	4	Non-prison	5 years	1,734	333	19.2%	24.2
784.087(2)(c)	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT; OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER OR INTAKE OFFICER, ETC.	2nd	6	Non-prison	15 years	181	107	58.9%	67.9
784.087(2)(d)	AGGRAVATED BATTERY; OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER OR INTAKE OFFICER, ETC.	1st	7	21	30 years	81	71	88.1%	82.3

¹ Criminal Code Lowest Permissible Sentence assumes no additional or prior offenses and is based on offense severity level.

² Adjusted for non-compliance in the completion of scoresheets. Per Department of Corrections report entitled, "Sentencing Scoresheet Compliance Report July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016", compliance is about 83.2%.