

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 339 Assault or Battery of a Law Enforcement Officer  
**SPONSOR(S):** Scionti and others  
**TIED BILLS:** **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 614

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REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Committee on Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety</u>	<u>7 Y, 0 N</u>	<u>Newton</u>	<u>Kramer</u>
2) <u>Safety &amp; Security Council</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
3) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
4) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
5) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

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**SUMMARY ANALYSIS**

Currently section 784.07, F.S. reclassifies the felony or misdemeanor degree of assault or battery offenses committed on such persons as firefighters, emergency medical care providers, law enforcement officers, and other specific persons.

HB 339 redefines the term "law enforcement officer" under s. 784.07, F.S. to include federal law enforcement officers for the purposes of enhancing the maximum penalties which can be imposed for the offenses of assault or battery of a law enforcement officer.

The bill shall take effect July 1, 2007.

## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Promote personal responsibility: HB 339 will have the effect of increasing the maximum sentence which may be imposed for an assault or battery offense committed against a federal law enforcement officer.

#### B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Currently section 784.07, F.S., provides that when a person is charged with knowingly committing assault<sup>1</sup>, aggravated assault<sup>2</sup>, battery<sup>3</sup>, or aggravated battery<sup>4</sup> against a law enforcement officer<sup>5</sup>, firefighter<sup>6</sup>, emergency medical care provider<sup>7</sup>, traffic accident investigation officer, traffic infraction enforcement officer<sup>8</sup>, or parking enforcement officer employed by the board of trustees of a community college while the officer, firefighter or emergency medical care provider is engaged in the lawful performance of his or her duties, the assault or battery offense is classified as follows:

- In the case of assault, from a misdemeanor of the second degree to a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- In the case of battery, from a misdemeanor of the first degree to a felony of the third degree.
- In the case of aggravated assault, from a felony of the third degree to a felony of the second degree.
- In the case aggravated battery, from a felony of the second degree to a felony of the first degree.

Reclassifying an offense has the effect of increasing the maximum sentence that can be imposed for

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<sup>1</sup> An assault is an intentional, unlawful threat by word or act to do violence to the person of another, coupled with an apparent ability to do so, and doing some act which creates a well-founded fear in such other person that such violence is imminent. s. 784.011, F.S.

<sup>2</sup> An aggravated assault is an assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill or with an intent to commit a felony. s. 784.021, F.S.

<sup>3</sup> A battery occurs when a person actually and intentionally touches or strikes another person against the will of the other or intentionally causes bodily harm to another person. s. 784.03, F.S.

<sup>4</sup> An aggravated battery occurs when a person in committing battery intentionally or knowingly causes great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement; or uses a deadly weapon. Aggravated battery also occurs if the victim of the battery was pregnant at the time of the offense and the offender knew or should have known that the victim was pregnant. s. 784.045, F.S.

<sup>5</sup> "Law enforcement officer" includes a law enforcement officer, a correctional officer, a correctional probation officer, a part-time law enforcement officer, a part-time correctional officer, an auxiliary law enforcement officer, and an auxiliary correctional officer, as those terms are respectively defined in s. 943.10 and any county probation officer; employee or agent of the Department of Corrections who supervises or provides services to inmates; officer of the Parole Commission; and law enforcement personnel of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection, or the Department of Law Enforcement. s. 784.07(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>6</sup> "Firefighter" means any person employed by any public employer of this state whose duty it is to extinguish fires; to protect life or property; or to enforce municipal, county, and state fire prevention codes, as well as any law pertaining to the prevention and control of fires. s. 784.07(1)(b), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> "Emergency medical care provider" means an ambulance driver, emergency medical technician, paramedic, registered nurse, physician as defined in s. 401.23, medical director as defined in s. 401.23, or any person authorized by an emergency medical service licensed under chapter 401 who is engaged in the performance of his or her duties. The term "emergency medical care provider" also includes physicians, employees, agents, or volunteers of hospitals as defined in chapter 395, who are employed, under contract, or otherwise authorized by a hospital to perform duties directly associated with the care and treatment rendered by the hospital's emergency department or the security thereof. s. 784.07(1)(c), F.S.

<sup>8</sup> S. 316.640, F.S.

an offense. The maximum sentence that can be imposed for a criminal offense is generally based on the degree of the misdemeanor or felony. The maximum sentence for a second degree misdemeanor is sixty days incarceration; for a first degree misdemeanor is one year of incarceration; for a third degree felony is five years imprisonment; for a second degree felony is fifteen years imprisonment and for a first degree felony is thirty years imprisonment<sup>9</sup>.

HB 339 adds the term "federal law enforcement officer" as defined in s. 901.1505, F.S.<sup>10</sup> to the definition of law enforcement officer included in s. 784.07 (1) F.S.. This will have the effect of increasing the maximum sentence that can be imposed for assault or battery offense committed against a federal law enforcement officer as described above.

#### C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1:

Amends s. 784.07 F.S. to include the term "federal law enforcement officer" as defined in s. 901.1505 F.S.

Section 2 through Section 6:

Reenacts: ss. 435.04(3) (a) level 2 screening standards, 901.15 (15) arrest without a warrant, 921.0022(3) (d), (f), and (g) offense severity ranking chart, 943.051(3) (b) the finger printing of minors, and 985.11 (1) (b) fingerprinting and photographing of a minor.

Section 7:

Provides an effected date of July 1, 2007.

## II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

#### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

The Criminal Justice Impact Conference met on February 16<sup>th</sup> and determined that this bill will have an insignificant prison bed impact on the Department of Corrections.

#### B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

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<sup>9</sup> s. 775.082, F.S.

<sup>10</sup> 901.1505 F.S. defines the term "federal law enforcement officer" to mean "a person who is employed by the Federal Government as a full-time law enforcement officer as defined by applicable provisions of the United States Code, who is empowered to effect an arrest for violations of the United States Code, who is authorized to carry firearms in the performance of her or his duties, and who has received law enforcement training equivalent to that prescribed in s. 943.13."

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None

**III. COMMENTS**

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None

2. Other:

None

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None

D. STATEMENT OF THE SPONSOR

No comment submitted.

**IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE CHANGES**