

By Senator Perry

8-01289A-20

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2       An act relating to assaults on specified persons;  
 3       creating s. 341.0611, F.S.; requiring public transit  
 4       providers to post a specified sign concerning  
 5       assaulting a transit operator; requiring public  
 6       transit providers to create and implement a risk  
 7       reduction program; specifying minimum requirements for  
 8       such a program; amending s. 784.07, F.S.; revising the  
 9       reclassification of the offense of assault on  
 10      specified persons; providing an effective date.

11  
 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 14       Section 1. Section 341.0611, Florida Statutes, is created  
 15 to read:

16       341.0611 Transit worker safety.-

17       (1) By January 1, 2021, every public transit provider  
 18 operating regularly scheduled transit service for the general  
 19 public shall post in at least one conspicuous place at the  
 20 entrance of each public transit vehicle a yellow sign with  
 21 black, bold type no smaller than 48 point containing the  
 22 following statement:

23       "ATTENTION: ASSAULTING A TRANSIT WORKER IS A FELONY  
 24 PUNISHABLE BY UP TO 5 YEARS IN PRISON."

25       (2) By July 1, 2021, every public transit provider  
 26 operating regularly scheduled transit service for the general  
 27 public shall create and implement a risk reduction program. At a  
 28 minimum, each risk reduction program shall include:

29       (a) The deployment of assault mitigation infrastructure and

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30 technology on public transit, including barriers to restrict the  
31 unwanted entry of individuals and objects into transit  
32 operator's workstations.

33 (b) Conflict de-escalation training for transit operators.

34 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
35 784.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

36 784.07 Assault or battery of law enforcement officers,  
37 firefighters, emergency medical care providers, public transit  
38 employees or agents, or other specified officers;  
39 reclassification of offenses; minimum sentences.—

40 (2) Whenever any person is charged with knowingly  
41 committing an assault or battery upon a law enforcement officer,  
42 a firefighter, an emergency medical care provider, a railroad  
43 special officer, a traffic accident investigation officer as  
44 described in s. 316.640, a nonsworn law enforcement agency  
45 employee who is certified as an agency inspector, a blood  
46 alcohol analyst, or a breath test operator while such employee  
47 is in uniform and engaged in processing, testing, evaluating,  
48 analyzing, or transporting a person who is detained or under  
49 arrest for DUI, a law enforcement explorer, a traffic infraction  
50 enforcement officer as described in s. 316.640, a parking  
51 enforcement specialist as defined in s. 316.640, a person  
52 licensed as a security officer as defined in s. 493.6101 and  
53 wearing a uniform that bears at least one patch or emblem that  
54 is visible at all times that clearly identifies the employing  
55 agency and that clearly identifies the person as a licensed  
56 security officer, or a security officer employed by the board of  
57 trustees of a community college, while the officer, firefighter,  
58 emergency medical care provider, railroad special officer,

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59 traffic accident investigation officer, traffic infraction  
60 enforcement officer, inspector, analyst, operator, law  
61 enforcement explorer, parking enforcement specialist, public  
62 transit employee or agent, or security officer is engaged in the  
63 lawful performance of his or her duties, the offense for which  
64 the person is charged shall be reclassified as follows:

65 (a) In the case of assault, from a misdemeanor of the  
66 second degree to a felony ~~misdemeanor~~ of the third ~~first~~ degree.

67 Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2020.