

By Senator Thurston

33-01293-20

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to assault or battery on courtroom  
3           personnel; creating s. 784.079, F.S.; defining the  
4           term "courtroom personnel"; prohibiting an assault or  
5           battery on specified courtroom personnel; providing  
6           criminal penalties; providing an effective date.

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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10           Section 1. Section 784.079, Florida Statutes, is created to  
11           read:

12           784.079 Assault or battery on courtroom personnel.—

13           (1) As used in this section, the term "courtroom personnel"  
14           means any person employed by or performing contractual services  
15           in a courthouse or other judicial facility in this state  
16           directly related to a trial, hearing, grand jury proceeding, or  
17           other judicial proceeding. The term includes attorneys, court  
18           reporters, probation officers, judges, bailiffs, and clerks.

19           (2) It is unlawful for any person to commit an assault or a  
20           battery on courtroom personnel who he or she knows or reasonably  
21           should know to be such a person and who is acting in the course  
22           of his or her duties, regardless of whether the assault or  
23           battery occurs on the premises of a courthouse or other judicial  
24           facility.

25           (3) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a person who  
26           violates subsection (2) commits a felony of the third degree,  
27           punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

28           (b) A person who commits a second or subsequent violation  
29           of subsection (2) commits a felony of the third degree,

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30 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084,  
31 with a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 3 years.

32 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2020.