

By Senator Thurston

33-00332-21

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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 a 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 and
16 whose work is directly related to a trial, hearing, grand jury
17 proceeding, or other judicial proceeding. The term includes
18 attorneys, court reporters, probation officers, judges,
19 bailiffs, and clerks.

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

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

29 (b) A person who commits a second or subsequent violation

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30 of subsection (2) commits a felony of the third degree,
31 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084,
32 with a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 3 years.

33 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2021.