HB 537

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to offenses committed against
3	contractors performing state functions; amending s.
4	784.07, F.S.; defining the term "contractor performing
5	state functions"; providing for reclassification of
6	certain offenses committed against a contractor
7	performing state functions; providing an effective
8	date.
9	
10	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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12	Section 1. Paragraphs (a) through (g) of subsection (1) of
13	section 784.07, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs
14	(b) through (h), respectively, a new paragraph (a) is added to
15	that subsection, and subsection (2) of that section is amended,
16	to read:
17	784.07 Assault or battery of law enforcement officers and
18	other specified personnel; reclassification of offenses; minimum
19	sentences
20	(1) As used in this section, the term:
21	(a) "Contractor performing state functions" means a person
22	employed by a business entity that has a contract with the state
23	or a state agency to perform a function on behalf of the state
24	government or a state agency. The term includes, but is not
25	limited to, functions related to construction, debris removal,
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26 landscaping, and infrastructure maintenance. 27 Whenever any person is charged with knowingly (2)28 committing an assault or battery upon a law enforcement officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical care provider, hospital 29 30 personnel, a railroad special officer, a traffic accident investigation officer as described in s. 316.640, a nonsworn law 31 32 enforcement agency employee who is certified as an agency 33 inspector, a blood alcohol analyst, or a breath test operator while such employee is in uniform and engaged in processing, 34 35 testing, evaluating, analyzing, or transporting a person who is 36 detained or under arrest for DUI, a law enforcement explorer, a 37 traffic infraction enforcement officer as described in s. 38 316.640, a parking enforcement specialist as defined in s. 39 316.640, a person licensed as a security officer as defined in s. 493.6101 and wearing a uniform that bears at least one patch 40 or emblem that is visible at all times that clearly identifies 41 42 the employing agency and that clearly identifies the person as a 43 licensed security officer, or a security officer employed by the board of trustees of a community college, or a contractor 44 45 performing state functions, while the officer, firefighter, 46 emergency medical care provider, hospital personnel, railroad special officer, traffic accident investigation officer, traffic 47 48 infraction enforcement officer, inspector, analyst, operator, law enforcement explorer, parking enforcement specialist, public 49 50 transit employee or agent, or security officer, or contractor

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51 <u>performing state functions</u> is engaged in the lawful performance 52 of his or her duties, the offense for which the person is 53 charged shall be reclassified as follows:

54 (a) In the case of assault, from a misdemeanor of the
55 second degree to a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(b) In the case of battery, from a misdemeanor of the first degree to a felony of the third degree. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person convicted of battery upon a law enforcement officer committed in furtherance of a riot or an aggravated riot prohibited under s. 870.01 shall be sentenced to a minimum term of imprisonment of 6 months.

(c) In the case of aggravated assault, from a felony of
the third degree to a felony of the second degree.
Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person convicted
of aggravated assault upon a law enforcement officer shall be
sentenced to a minimum term of imprisonment of 3 years.

(d) In the case of aggravated battery, from a felony of
the second degree to a felony of the first degree.
Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person convicted
of aggravated battery of a law enforcement officer shall be
sentenced to a minimum term of imprisonment of 5 years.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

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