

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to assault or battery on courtroom
 3 personnel; creating s. 784.079, F.S.; providing a
 4 definition; prohibiting an assault or battery on
 5 specified courtroom personnel; providing criminal
 6 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
 11 to read:

12 784.079 Assault or battery on courtroom personnel.-

13 (1) As used in this section, the term "courtroom
 14 personnel" means any person employed by or performing
 15 contractual services in a courthouse or other judicial facility
 16 in this state 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
 21 battery on courtroom personnel whom he or she knows or
 22 reasonably should know to be such a person and who is acting in
 23 the course of his or her duties, regardless of whether the
 24 assault or battery occurs on the premises of a courthouse or
 25 other judicial 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
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, 2020.