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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/11/2025	.	
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The Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice  
(Yarborough) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 784.07, Florida  
Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (h) is added to subsection  
(1) of that section, to read:

784.07 Assault or battery of law enforcement officers and  
other specified personnel; reclassification of offenses; minimum  
sentences.—



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(1) As used in this section, the term:

(h) "Utility worker" means a person who bears at least one patch, emblem, organizational identification, or other clear marking that is intended to be plainly visible, that identifies the employing or contracting utility, and that clearly identifies the person as a utility worker under contract with or employed by an entity that owns, operates, leases, or controls a plant, property, or facility for the generation, transmission, distribution, or furnishing to or for the public, of electricity, natural or manufactured gas or propane, water, wastewater, telephone, or communications service, including two or more utilities rendering joint service.

(2) Whenever any person is charged with knowingly committing an assault or battery upon a law enforcement officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical care provider, hospital personnel, a railroad special officer, a traffic accident investigation officer as described in s. 316.640, a nonsworn law enforcement agency employee who is certified as an agency inspector, a blood alcohol analyst, or a breath test operator while such employee is in uniform and engaged in processing, testing, evaluating, analyzing, or transporting a person who is detained or under arrest for DUI, a law enforcement explorer, a traffic infraction enforcement officer as described in s. 316.640, a parking enforcement specialist as defined in s. 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 or emblem that is visible at all times that clearly identifies the employing agency and that clearly identifies the person as a licensed security officer, ~~or~~ a security officer employed by the



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board of trustees of a community college, or a utility worker  
engaged in work on critical infrastructure as defined in s.  
812.141(1), while the officer, firefighter, emergency medical  
care provider, hospital personnel, railroad special officer,  
traffic accident investigation officer, traffic infraction  
enforcement officer, inspector, analyst, operator, law  
enforcement explorer, parking enforcement specialist, public  
transit employee or agent, ~~or~~ security officer, or utility  
worker is engaged in the lawful performance of his or her  
duties, the offense for which the person is charged shall be  
reclassified as follows:

(a) In the case of assault, from a misdemeanor of the  
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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69           Section 2. Subsection (15) of section 901.15, Florida  
70 Statutes, is amended to read:

71           901.15 When arrest by officer without warrant is lawful.—A  
72 law enforcement officer may arrest a person without a warrant  
73 when:

74           (15) There is probable cause to believe that the person has  
75 committed assault upon a law enforcement officer, a firefighter,  
76 an emergency medical care provider, public transit employees or  
77 agents, or other specified persons ~~officers~~ as provided ~~set~~  
78 ~~forth~~ in s. 784.07 or has committed assault or battery upon any  
79 employee of a receiving facility as defined in s. 394.455 who is  
80 engaged in the lawful performance of his or her duties.

81           Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section  
82 943.051, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

83           943.051 Criminal justice information; collection and  
84 storage; fingerprinting.—

85           (3)

86           (b) A minor who is charged with or found to have committed  
87 the following offenses shall be fingerprinted and the  
88 fingerprints shall be submitted electronically to the  
89 department, unless the minor is issued a prearrest delinquency  
90 citation pursuant to s. 985.12:

- 91           1. Assault, as defined in s. 784.011.
- 92           2. Battery, as defined in s. 784.03.
- 93           3. Carrying a concealed weapon, as defined in s. 790.01(2).
- 94           4. Unlawful use of destructive devices or bombs, as defined  
95 in s. 790.1615(1).
- 96           5. Neglect of a child, as defined in s. 827.03(1)(e).
- 97           6. Assault or battery on a law enforcement officer, a



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firefighter, or other specified persons ~~officers~~, as provided  
~~defined~~ in s. 784.07 ~~784.07(2)(a) and (b)~~.

7. Open carrying of a weapon, as defined in s. 790.053.

8. Exposure of sexual organs, as defined in s. 800.03.

9. Unlawful possession of a firearm, as defined in s.  
790.22(5).

10. Petit theft, as defined in s. 812.014(3).

11. Cruelty to animals, as defined in s. 828.12(1).

12. Arson, as defined in s. 806.031(1).

13. Unlawful possession or discharge of a weapon or firearm  
at a school-sponsored event or on school property, as provided  
in s. 790.115.

Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
985.11, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

985.11 Fingerprinting and photographing.—

(1)

(b) Unless the child is issued a prearrest delinquency  
citation pursuant to s. 985.12, a child who is charged with or  
found to have committed one of the following offenses shall be  
fingerprinted, and the fingerprints shall be submitted to the  
Department of Law Enforcement as provided in s. 943.051(3)(b):

1. Assault, as defined in s. 784.011.

2. Battery, as defined in s. 784.03.

3. Carrying a concealed weapon, as defined in s. 790.01(2).

4. Unlawful use of destructive devices or bombs, as defined  
in s. 790.1615(1).

5. Neglect of a child, as defined in s. 827.03(1)(e).

6. Assault on a law enforcement officer, a firefighter, or  
other specified persons ~~officers~~, as provided ~~defined~~ in s.



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784.07 ~~784.07(2)(a)~~.

7. Open carrying of a weapon, as defined in s. 790.053.

8. Exposure of sexual organs, as defined in s. 800.03.

9. Unlawful possession of a firearm, as defined in s.  
790.22(5).

10. Petit theft, as defined in s. 812.014.

11. Cruelty to animals, as defined in s. 828.12(1).

12. Arson, resulting in bodily harm to a firefighter, as  
defined in s. 806.031(1).

13. Unlawful possession or discharge of a weapon or firearm  
at a school-sponsored event or on school property as defined in  
s. 790.115.

A law enforcement agency may fingerprint and photograph a child  
taken into custody upon probable cause that such child has  
committed any other violation of law, as the agency deems  
appropriate. Such fingerprint records and photographs shall be  
retained by the law enforcement agency in a separate file, and  
these records and all copies thereof must be marked "Juvenile  
Confidential." These records are not available for public  
disclosure and inspection under s. 119.07(1) except as provided  
in ss. 943.053 and 985.04(2), but shall be available to other  
law enforcement agencies, criminal justice agencies, state  
attorneys, the courts, the child, the parents or legal  
custodians of the child, their attorneys, and any other person  
authorized by the court to have access to such records. In  
addition, such records may be submitted to the Department of Law  
Enforcement for inclusion in the state criminal history records  
and used by criminal justice agencies for criminal justice



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purposes. These records may, in the discretion of the court, be open to inspection by anyone upon a showing of cause. The fingerprint and photograph records shall be produced in the court whenever directed by the court. Any photograph taken pursuant to this section may be shown by a law enforcement officer to any victim or witness of a crime for the purpose of identifying the person who committed such crime.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 985.644, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

985.644 Departmental contracting powers; personnel standards and investigation.—

(3)(a) All employees of the department and all personnel of contract providers for any program for children, including all owners, operators, employees, persons who have access to confidential juvenile records, and volunteers, must complete:

1. A level 2 employment screening pursuant to chapter 435 before employment. The security background investigation conducted under this section must ensure that, in addition to the disqualifying offenses listed in s. 435.04, no person subject to the background screening provisions of this section has an arrest awaiting final disposition for, been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, or been adjudicated delinquent and the record has not been sealed or expunged for, any offense prohibited under the following provisions of state law or similar laws of another jurisdiction:

a. Section 784.07, relating to assault or battery of law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical care providers, public transit employees or agents, or other



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specified persons ~~officers~~.

b. Section 817.568, relating to criminal use of personal identification information.

2. A national criminal records check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation every 5 years following the date of the person's employment.

Section 6. This act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

===== T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T =====

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause  
and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to assault or battery on a utility worker; amending s. 784.07, F.S.; defining the term "utility worker"; providing for reclassification of certain offenses committed against a utility worker engaged in work on critical infrastructure; amending ss. 901.15, 943.051, 985.11, and 985.644, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.