



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Andrea Holmes

H.B. 154

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Slesnick and Driehaus, Antonio, R. Hagan, Stinziano, Szollosi, Williams

BILL SUMMARY

- Increases the penalty for the offense of assault to a fourth degree felony if the victim of the offense is a health care professional, health care worker, or security officer of a hospital who is engaged in the performance of the individual's duties.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Existing law

Existing law prohibits a person from knowingly causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another or to another's unborn or recklessly causing serious physical harm to another or to another's unborn. A violation of the prohibition is the offense of "assault." Assault generally is a first degree misdemeanor, but in a number of specified circumstances it is a third, fourth, or fifth degree felony.¹

Operation of the bill

The bill expands the penalty enhancement provisions in the offense of assault to include an enhanced penalty if the victim of the offense is a health care professional, health care worker, or security officer of a hospital who is engaged in the performance of the individual's duties. In this circumstance, assault is a fourth degree felony.²

¹ R.C. 2903.13.

² R.C. 2903.13(C)(6).

Definitions

The following definitions are relevant to the provision described above:³

(1) "Health care professional" means any of the following who provide medical, dental, or other health-related diagnosis, care, or treatment and are authorized to practice or are licensed or certified under the applicable chapters of the Revised Code: physicians, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives, certified nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dentists, dental hygienists, physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, chiropractors, optometrists, podiatrists, dietitians, pharmacists, emergency medical technicians-basic, emergency medical technicians-intermediate, emergency medical technicians-paramedic, respiratory care professionals, speech-language pathologists, and audiologists.⁴

(2) "Health care worker" means a person other than a health care professional who provides medical, dental, or other health-related care or treatment under the direction of a health care professional with the authority to direct that individual's activities, including medical technicians, medical assistants, dental assistants, orderlies, aides, and individuals acting in similar capacities.⁵

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-15-11

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³ R.C. 2903.13(D)(11).

⁴ R.C. 2305.234(A)(5).

⁵ R.C. 2305.234(A)(6).