

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Assaults on prosecutors; enhanced penalties

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Overview

This bill adds enhanced penalties for causing the death of or assaulting a prosecutor while the prosecutor is engaged in the performance of official duties.

It adds “prosecuting attorney” to list of protected occupations under the first-degree murder statute, first-degree assault statute (use of deadly force), and fourth-degree assault statute. (The amended sections currently apply to peace officers and/or certain correctional employees.)

It defines “prosecuting attorney” as an attorney, with criminal prosecution or civil responsibilities, who works in the U.S. district attorney’s office, the attorney general’s office, or a county or city attorney’s office.

First-degree murder carries a maximum life sentence. The penalty for first-degree assault is a minimum of ten years’ and a maximum of 20 years’ imprisonment. The maximum penalty for fourth-degree assault under the applicable subdivision is a two-year felony.