House Research

- Bill Summary :

File Number: H.F. 1481 **Date:** March 27, 2018

Version: First engrossment

Authors: Grossell and others

Subject: Enhanced criminal penalties for assaulting firefighters or medical personnel

Analyst: Ben Johnson (651-296-8957)

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This bill amends section 609.2231 which criminalizes assaults on firefighters and emergency medical personnel. The bill makes the following changes to the statue:

- 1. Expands the class of protected persons to include all medical providers who work in a hospital. The current law applies only to medical providers who work in a hospital emergency room.
- 2. Creates a gross misdemeanor penalty for a physical assault on a firefighter or a medical provider who works in a hospital where the assault does <u>not</u> cause demonstrable bodily harm. The current law applies only when there is demonstrable bodily harm.
- 3. Creates a felony offense punishable by up to three years in prison and a fine of \$6,000 for intentionally throwing or transferring bodily fluids or feces onto a firefighter or a medical provider who works in a hospital.
- 4. Increases the maximum period of imprisonment for assaulting a firefighter or a medical provider who works in a hospital when the assault causes demonstrable bodily harm from two years to three, and increases the maximum fine from \$4,000 to \$6,000.