

File Number: H.F. 1481
Version: As introduced

Date: February 28, 2017

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Subject: Enhanced criminal penalties for assaulting firefighters or medical personnel

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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 statute:

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 not 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.