

**As Introduced**

**129th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
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**H. B. No. 154**

**Representatives Slesnick, Driehaus**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Antonio, Hagan, R., Stinziano, Szollosi,  
Williams**

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**A B I L L**

To amend section 2903.13 of the Revised Code to 1  
increase the penalty for assault to a felony of 2  
the fourth degree when the victim is a health care 3  
professional, health care worker, or security 4  
officer of a hospital who is engaged in the 5  
performance of the individual's duties. 6

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 2903.13 of the Revised Code be 7  
amended to read as follows: 8

**Sec. 2903.13.** (A) No person shall knowingly cause or attempt 9  
to cause physical harm to another or to another's unborn. 10

(B) No person shall recklessly cause serious physical harm to 11  
another or to another's unborn. 12

(C) Whoever violates this section is guilty of assault, and 13  
the court shall sentence the offender as provided in this division 14  
and divisions (C)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), ~~and (6)~~, and (7) of this 15  
section. Except as otherwise provided in division (C)(1), (2), 16  
(3), (4), ~~or (5)~~, or (6) of this section, assault is a misdemeanor 17  
of the first degree. 18

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this division, if the offense is committed by a caretaker against a functionally impaired person under the caretaker's care, assault is a felony of the fourth degree. If the offense is committed by a caretaker against a functionally impaired person under the caretaker's care, if the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of this section or section 2903.11 or 2903.16 of the Revised Code, and if in relation to the previous conviction the offender was a caretaker and the victim was a functionally impaired person under the offender's care, assault is a felony of the third degree.

(2) If the offense is committed in any of the following circumstances, assault is a felony of the fifth degree:

(a) The offense occurs in or on the grounds of a state correctional institution or an institution of the department of youth services, the victim of the offense is an employee of the department of rehabilitation and correction, the department of youth services, or a probation department or is on the premises of the particular institution for business purposes or as a visitor, and the offense is committed by a person incarcerated in the state correctional institution, by a person institutionalized in the department of youth services institution pursuant to a commitment to the department of youth services, by a parolee, by an offender under transitional control, under a community control sanction, or on an escorted visit, by a person under post-release control, or by an offender under any other type of supervision by a government agency.

(b) The offense occurs in or on the grounds of a local correctional facility, the victim of the offense is an employee of the local correctional facility or a probation department or is on the premises of the facility for business purposes or as a visitor, and the offense is committed by a person who is under

custody in the facility subsequent to the person's arrest for any 51  
crime or delinquent act, subsequent to the person's being charged 52  
with or convicted of any crime, or subsequent to the person's 53  
being alleged to be or adjudicated a delinquent child. 54

(c) The offense occurs off the grounds of a state 55  
correctional institution and off the grounds of an institution of 56  
the department of youth services, the victim of the offense is an 57  
employee of the department of rehabilitation and correction, the 58  
department of youth services, or a probation department, the 59  
offense occurs during the employee's official work hours and while 60  
the employee is engaged in official work responsibilities, and the 61  
offense is committed by a person incarcerated in a state 62  
correctional institution or institutionalized in the department of 63  
youth services who temporarily is outside of the institution for 64  
any purpose, by a parolee, by an offender under transitional 65  
control, under a community control sanction, or on an escorted 66  
visit, by a person under post-release control, or by an offender 67  
under any other type of supervision by a government agency. 68

(d) The offense occurs off the grounds of a local 69  
correctional facility, the victim of the offense is an employee of 70  
the local correctional facility or a probation department, the 71  
offense occurs during the employee's official work hours and while 72  
the employee is engaged in official work responsibilities, and the 73  
offense is committed by a person who is under custody in the 74  
facility subsequent to the person's arrest for any crime or 75  
delinquent act, subsequent to the person being charged with or 76  
convicted of any crime, or subsequent to the person being alleged 77  
to be or adjudicated a delinquent child and who temporarily is 78  
outside of the facility for any purpose or by a parolee, by an 79  
offender under transitional control, under a community control 80  
sanction, or on an escorted visit, by a person under post-release 81  
control, or by an offender under any other type of supervision by 82

a government agency. 83

(e) The victim of the offense is a school teacher or 84  
administrator or a school bus operator, and the offense occurs in 85  
a school, on school premises, in a school building, on a school 86  
bus, or while the victim is outside of school premises or a school 87  
bus and is engaged in duties or official responsibilities 88  
associated with the victim's employment or position as a school 89  
teacher or administrator or a school bus operator, including, but 90  
not limited to, driving, accompanying, or chaperoning students at 91  
or on class or field trips, athletic events, or other school 92  
extracurricular activities or functions outside of school 93  
premises. 94

(3) If the victim of the offense is a peace officer or an 95  
investigator of the bureau of criminal identification and 96  
investigation, a firefighter, or a person performing emergency 97  
medical service, while in the performance of their official 98  
duties, assault is a felony of the fourth degree. 99

(4) If the victim of the offense is a peace officer or an 100  
investigator of the bureau of criminal identification and 101  
investigation and if the victim suffered serious physical harm as 102  
a result of the commission of the offense, assault is a felony of 103  
the fourth degree, and the court, pursuant to division (F) of 104  
section 2929.13 of the Revised Code, shall impose as a mandatory 105  
prison term one of the prison terms prescribed for a felony of the 106  
fourth degree that is at least twelve months in duration. 107

(5) If the victim of the offense is an officer or employee of 108  
a public children services agency or a private child placing 109  
agency and the offense relates to the officer's or employee's 110  
performance or anticipated performance of official 111  
responsibilities or duties, assault is either a felony of the 112  
fifth degree or, if the offender previously has been convicted of 113  
or pleaded guilty to an offense of violence, the victim of that 114

prior offense was an officer or employee of a public children 115  
services agency or private child placing agency, and that prior 116  
offense related to the officer's or employee's performance or 117  
anticipated performance of official responsibilities or duties, a 118  
felony of the fourth degree. 119

(6) If the victim of the offense is a health care 120  
professional, health care worker, or security officer of a 121  
hospital who is engaged in the performance of the individual's 122  
duties, assault is a felony of the fourth degree. 123

(7) If an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to 124  
assault when it is a misdemeanor also is convicted of or pleads 125  
guilty to a specification as described in section 2941.1423 of the 126  
Revised Code that was included in the indictment, count in the 127  
indictment, or information charging the offense, the court shall 128  
sentence the offender to a mandatory jail term as provided in 129  
division (G) of section 2929.24 of the Revised Code. 130

If an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to 131  
assault when it is a felony also is convicted of or pleads guilty 132  
to a specification as described in section 2941.1423 of the 133  
Revised Code that was included in the indictment, count in the 134  
indictment, or information charging the offense, except as 135  
otherwise provided in division (C)(4) of this section, the court 136  
shall sentence the offender to a mandatory prison term as provided 137  
in division (D)(8) of section 2929.14 of the Revised Code. 138

(D) As used in this section: 139

(1) "Peace officer" has the same meaning as in section 140  
2935.01 of the Revised Code. 141

(2) "Firefighter" has the same meaning as in section 3937.41 142  
of the Revised Code. 143

(3) "Emergency medical service" has the same meaning as in 144  
section 4765.01 of the Revised Code. 145

(4) "Local correctional facility" means a county, 146  
multicounty, municipal, municipal-county, or multicounty-municipal 147  
jail or workhouse, a minimum security jail established under 148  
section 341.23 or 753.21 of the Revised Code, or another county, 149  
multicounty, municipal, municipal-county, or multicounty-municipal 150  
facility used for the custody of persons arrested for any crime or 151  
delinquent act, persons charged with or convicted of any crime, or 152  
persons alleged to be or adjudicated a delinquent child. 153

(5) "Employee of a local correctional facility" means a 154  
person who is an employee of the political subdivision or of one 155  
or more of the affiliated political subdivisions that operates the 156  
local correctional facility and who operates or assists in the 157  
operation of the facility. 158

(6) "School teacher or administrator" means either of the 159  
following: 160

(a) A person who is employed in the public schools of the 161  
state under a contract described in section 3319.08 of the Revised 162  
Code in a position in which the person is required to have a 163  
certificate issued pursuant to sections 3319.22 to 3319.311 of the 164  
Revised Code. 165

(b) A person who is employed by a nonpublic school for which 166  
the state board of education prescribes minimum standards under 167  
section 3301.07 of the Revised Code and who is certificated in 168  
accordance with section 3301.071 of the Revised Code. 169

(7) "Community control sanction" has the same meaning as in 170  
section 2929.01 of the Revised Code. 171

(8) "Escorted visit" means an escorted visit granted under 172  
section 2967.27 of the Revised Code. 173

(9) "Post-release control" and "transitional control" have 174  
the same meanings as in section 2967.01 of the Revised Code. 175

(10) "Investigator of the bureau of criminal identification and investigation" has the same meaning as in section 2903.11 of the Revised Code. 176  
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(11) "Health care professional" and "health care worker" have the same meanings as in section 2305.234 of the Revised Code. 179  
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**Section 2.** That existing section 2903.13 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed. 181  
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