

Senate Bill 465

By: Senators Thompson of the 5th, Unterman of the 45th, Crosby of the 13th, Golden of the 8th and McKoon of the 29th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to assault and battery, so as to increase the punishment for aggravated assault,  
3 battery, and aggravated battery upon a nurse while he or she is engaged in or on account of  
4 his or her official duties; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
5 other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
9 assault and battery, is amended by adding a new subsection to Code Section 16-5-21, relating  
10 to aggravated assault, to read as follows:

11 "(m) A person who knowingly commits the offense of aggravated assault upon a nurse  
12 while such nurse is engaged in, or on account of the performance of, his or her official  
13 duties shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment for not less than five  
14 nor more than 20 years. As used in this subsection, the term 'nurse' means a person  
15 authorized by license issued under Chapter 26 of Title 43 as a registered professional nurse  
16 or licensed practical nurse to practice nursing."

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 Said article is further amended by adding a new subsection to Code Section 16-5-23.1,  
19 relating to battery, to read as follows:

20 "(m) A person who knowingly commits the offense of battery against a nurse while such  
21 nurse is engaged in, or on account of the performance of, his or her official duties shall,  
22 upon conviction thereof, be punished for a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.  
23 As used in this subsection, the term 'nurse' means a person authorized by license issued  
24 under Chapter 26 of Title 43 as a registered professional nurse or licensed practical nurse  
25 to practice nursing."

26 **SECTION 3.**

27 Said article is further amended by adding a new subsection to Code Section 16-5-24, relating  
28 to aggravated battery, to read as follows:

29 "(i) A person who knowingly commits the offense of aggravated battery upon a nurse  
30 while such nurse is engaged in, or on account of the performance of, his or her official  
31 duties shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment for not less than five  
32 nor more than 20 years. As used in this subsection, the term 'nurse' means a person  
33 authorized by license issued under Chapter 26 of Title 43 as a registered professional nurse  
34 or licensed practical nurse to practice nursing."

35 **SECTION 4.**

36 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.