

House Bill 483

By: Representatives Prince of the 132nd, Leverett of the 123rd, Smith of the 18th, Reeves of the 99th, Roberts of the 52nd, and others

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 provide for protections for inspectors of code
3 enforcement; to provide for definitions; to provide for enhanced penalties for simple assault,
4 aggravated assault, simple battery, battery, and aggravated battery committed upon
5 inspectors of code enforcement in certain circumstances; to provide for related matters; to
6 provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
7 purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 assault and battery, is amended by revising paragraph (9) of and by adding a new paragraph
12 to Code Section 16-5-19, relating to definitions, to read as follows:

13 "(4.1) 'Inspector of code enforcement' means any person employed by or under contract
14 with a municipality, city, county, or consolidated government who performs safety
15 inspections of buildings, structures, and businesses to ensure they are operated in
16 accordance with the law."

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17 "(9) 'Public safety officer' means peace officer, correctional officer, emergency health
18 worker, firefighter, highway emergency response operator, inspector of code
19 enforcement, jail officer, juvenile correctional officer, or probation officer."

20 **SECTION 2.**

21 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (i) of Code Section 16-5-20, relating
22 to simple assault, as follows:

23 "(i) Any person who commits the offense of simple assault upon a utility worker or
24 inspector of code enforcement while such worker or inspector is acting within the course
25 and scope of ~~their~~ his or her employment or is performing official duties at the time of the
26 offense shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished for a misdemeanor of a high and
27 aggravated nature."

28 **SECTION 3.**

29 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (m) of Code Section 16-5-21, relating
30 to aggravated assault, as follows:

31 "(m) Any person who commits the offense of aggravated assault upon a utility worker or
32 inspector of code enforcement while such worker or inspector is acting within the course
33 and scope of ~~their~~ his or her employment or is performing official duties shall, upon
34 conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment for not less than three nor more than 20
35 years."

36 **SECTION 4.**

37 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (j) of Code Section 16-5-23, relating
38 to simple battery, as follows:

39 "(j) Any person who commits the offense of simple battery upon a utility worker or
40 inspector of code enforcement while such worker or inspector is acting within the course

41 and scope of ~~their~~ his or her employment or is performing official duties at the time of the
42 offense shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished for a misdemeanor of a high and
43 aggravated nature."

44 **SECTION 5.**

45 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (l) of Code Section 16-5-23.1, relating
46 to battery, as follows:

47 "(l) Any person who commits the offense of battery upon a utility worker or inspector of
48 code enforcement while such worker or inspector is acting within the course and scope of
49 ~~their~~ his or her employment or is performing official duties at the time of the offense shall,
50 upon conviction thereof, be punished for a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature."

51 **SECTION 6.**

52 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (i) of Code Section 16-5-24, relating
53 to aggravated battery, as follows:

54 "(i) Any person who commits the offense of aggravated battery upon a utility worker or
55 inspector of code enforcement while such worker or inspector is acting within the course
56 and scope of ~~their~~ his or her employment or is performing official duties at the time of the
57 offense shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment for not less than three
58 nor more than 20 years."

59 **SECTION 7.**

60 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
61 without such approval and shall apply to all offenses committed on or after July 1, 2025.

62 **SECTION 8.**

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