

House Bill 483 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Prince of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, Leverett of the 123<sup>rd</sup>, Smith of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Reeves of the 99<sup>th</sup>, Roberts of the 52<sup>nd</sup>, 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 a definition; 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 adding a new paragraph to Code Section 16-5-19, relating  
 12 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 **SECTION 2.**

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

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

25 **SECTION 3.**

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

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

33 **SECTION 4.**

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

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

41 **SECTION 5.**

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

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

48 **SECTION 6.**

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

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

56 **SECTION 7.**

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

59 **SECTION 8.**

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