

House Bill 979 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Caldwell of the 131st, Cooper of the 43rd, Golick of the 40th, Atwood of the 179th, Lott of the 122nd, 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 and related offenses against persons, so as to increase the
3 punishment for aggravated assault and aggravated battery committed upon hospital
4 emergency department personnel and emergency medical services personnel; to provide for
5 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for 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 and related offenses against persons, is amended in Code Section 16-5-21,
10 relating to aggravated assault, by revising subsection (c) and by adding a new subsection to
11 read as follows:

12 "(c) Except as provided in subsections (d) through ~~(m)~~ (n) of this Code section, a person
13 convicted of the offense of aggravated assault shall be punished by imprisonment for not
14 less than one nor more than 20 years."

15 "(n) A person who knowingly commits the offense of aggravated assault upon an
16 emergency health worker while the worker is engaged in, or on account of the performance
17 of, his or her official duties shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment
18 for not less than five nor more than 20 years. As used in this subsection, the term
19 'emergency health worker' means hospital emergency department personnel and emergency
20 medical services personnel."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 Said article is further amended in Code Section 16-5-24, relating to aggravated battery, by
23 revising subsection (b) and by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

24 "(b) Except as provided in subsections (c) through ~~(h)~~ (i) of this Code section, a person
25 convicted of the offense of aggravated battery shall be punished by imprisonment for not
26 less than one nor more than 20 years."

27 "(i) A person who knowingly commits the offense of aggravated battery upon an
28 emergency health worker while the worker is engaged in, or on account of the performance
29 of, his or her official duties shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment
30 for not less than five nor more than 20 years. As used in this subsection, the term
31 'emergency health worker' means hospital emergency department personnel and emergency
32 medical services personnel."

33 **SECTION 3.**

34 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.