

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1199

S.P. 374

In Senate, March 12, 2019

An Act To Protect the Safety of Health Care Workers

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DOW of Lincoln.

Cosponsored by Senators: CLAXTON of Androscoggin, LIBBY of Androscoggin,

Representatives: COREY of Windham, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, RISEMAN of Harrison.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §752-C**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 471, §1, is repealed and
3 the following enacted in its place:

4 **§752-C. Assault on a health care practitioner or hospital employee or contractor**

5 **1.** A person is guilty of assault on a health care practitioner or hospital employee or
6 contractor if that person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury to a
7 health care practitioner while that health care practitioner is providing medical care or to
8 a hospital employee or person working for a hospital on a contractual basis while that
9 employee or person is performing duties related to the provision of care for a patient or a
10 prospective patient.

11 **2.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates "health care
12 practitioner" means a physician or other person certified, registered or licensed in the
13 healing arts, including, but not limited to, a nurse, podiatrist, optometrist, chiropractor,
14 physical therapist, dentist, psychologist, physicians' assistant or emergency medical
15 services' person, as defined in Title 32, section 83, subsection 12. "Health care
16 practitioner" includes hospital personnel assisting in providing medical care but does not
17 include a firefighter as defined in section 752-E, subsection 2.

18 **3.** Assault on a health care practitioner or hospital employee or contractor is a Class
19 C crime.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill provides that an assault on a health care practitioner while that health care
22 practitioner is providing medical care or an assault on a hospital employee or person
23 working for a hospital on a contractual basis while that employee or person is performing
24 duties related to the provision of care for a patient or a prospective patient is a Class C
25 crime.