

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 884

H. P. 705

House of Representatives, March 4, 1975

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Make Assault on a Police Officer a Felony.

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

17 MRSA § 204 is enacted to read:

§ 204. Assault and battery on a police officer

Whoever unlawfully attempts to strike, hit, touch or do any violence to a state, county or municipal law enforcement official however small, in a wanton, willful, angry or insulting manner, having an intention and existing ability to do some violence to that law enforcement official, is guilty of the felony of assault on a law enforcement official. If that attempt is carried into effect, he is guilty of the felony of assault and battery on a law enforcement official. Any person convicted of either offense, when it is not of a high and aggravated nature, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$500 or by imprisonment for not less than 60 days, or by both. When the offense is of a high and aggravated nature, the person convicted of either offense shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not less than 120 days, or by both.

STATEMENT OF FACT

There has been a vast increase in the number of assaults on police officers within the past few years. A police officer is an expensive official to maintain, and when an officer is laid up with an injury, it is difficult and costly to obtain a replacement. It is currently a felony to assault a federal police officer. This Act will make it a felony to assault any police officer.