



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2478

aggravated assault; law enforcement employees

Purpose

Classifies, as *aggravated assault*, assault on an employee of a law enforcement agency (LEA employee), other than a peace officer, while engaged in the performance of official duties.

Background

A person commits *assault* by: 1) intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing any physical injury to another person; 2) intentionally placing another person in reasonable apprehension of imminent physical injury; or 3) knowingly touching another person with the intent to injure, insult or provoke such person ([A.R.S. § 13-1203](#)).

A person commits *aggravated assault* if a person commits *assault* and certain aggravating circumstances apply, including if the person causes serious physical injury to another or uses a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument in the commission of the offense. A person also commits *aggravated assault* if the person commits *assault* on a person knowing or having reason to know that the victim is: 1) a peace officer; 2) a constable; 3) a firefighter, fire investigator, fire inspector, emergency medical technician or paramedic engaged in the execution of official duties; 4) a teacher or other school employee as outlined; 5) certain health care workers while engaged in official duties; 6) prosecutors; 7) code enforcement officers; 8) park rangers; 9) public defenders; and 10) judicial officers ([A.R.S. § 13-1204](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Classifies, as *aggravated assault*, assault on an LEA employee, other than a peace officer, while engaged in the performance of official duties.
2. Classifies *aggravated assault* on an LEA employee as a class 2 felony if the person causes serious physical injury or uses a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument in the commission of the offense.
3. Classifies *aggravated assault* on an LEA employee as a class 3 felony if the person causes temporary but substantial disfigurement, temporary but substantial loss or impairment of any body organ or part or a fracture of any body part.
4. Classifies *aggravated assault* on an LEA employee as a class 5 felony if the person knows or has reason to know that the person is an LEA employee, unless the assault causes any physical injury in which case it is a class 4 felony.
5. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

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House Action

MAPS	2/6/23	DP	15-0-0-0
3 rd Read	2/21/23		44-16-0

Prepared by Senate Research

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