

House Engrossed Senate Bill

aggravated assault; utility workers

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

CHAPTER 177

SENATE BILL 1448

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 13-1204, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2025, CHAPTER 172, SECTION 1; AMENDING SECTION 13-1204, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2025, CHAPTER 172, SECTION 2; RELATING TO ASSAULT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 13-1204, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by
3 Laws 2025, chapter 172, section 1, is amended to read:

4 13-1204. Aggravated assault; classification; definitions

5 A. Until January 1, 2033, a person commits aggravated assault if
6 the person commits assault as prescribed by section 13-1203 under any of
7 the following circumstances:

8 1. If the person causes serious physical injury to another.

9 2. If the person uses a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument.

10 3. If the person commits the assault by any means of force that
11 causes temporary but substantial disfigurement, temporary but substantial
12 loss or impairment of any body organ or part or a fracture of any body
13 part.

14 4. If the person commits the assault while the victim is bound or
15 otherwise physically restrained or while the victim's capacity to resist
16 is substantially impaired.

17 5. If the person commits the assault after entering the private
18 home of another with the intent to commit the assault.

19 6. If the person is eighteen years of age or older and commits the
20 assault on a minor under fifteen years of age.

21 7. If the person commits assault as prescribed by section 13-1203,
22 subsection A, paragraph 1 or 3 and the person is in violation of an order
23 of protection issued against the person pursuant to section 13-3602 or
24 13-3624.

25 8. If the person commits the assault knowing or having reason to
26 know that the victim is any of the following:

27 (a) A first responder or a person summoned and directed by the
28 first responder.

29 (b) A constable or a person summoned and directed by the constable
30 while engaged in the execution of any official duties or if the assault
31 results from the execution of the constable's official duties.

32 (c) A teacher or other person employed by any school and the
33 teacher or other employee is on the grounds of a school or grounds
34 adjacent to the school or is in any part of a building or vehicle used for
35 school purposes, any teacher or school nurse visiting a private home in
36 the course of the teacher's or nurse's professional duties or any teacher
37 engaged in any authorized and organized classroom activity held on other
38 than school grounds.

39 (d) A health care worker while engaged in the health care worker's
40 work duties or a health care practitioner who is certified or licensed
41 pursuant to title 32, chapter 13, 14, 15, 17 or 25, or a person summoned
42 and directed by the licensed health care practitioner while engaged in the
43 person's professional duties. This subdivision does not apply if the
44 person who commits the assault does not have the ability to form the
45 culpable mental state because of a mental disability, developmental

1 disability or cognitive disability or because the person is seriously
2 mentally ill, as defined in section 36-550.

3 (e) A prosecutor while engaged in the execution of any official
4 duties or if the assault results from the execution of the prosecutor's
5 official duties.

6 (f) A code enforcement officer as defined in section 39-123 while
7 engaged in the execution of any official duties or if the assault results
8 from the execution of the code enforcement officer's official duties.

9 (g) A state or municipal park ranger while engaged in the execution
10 of any official duties or if the assault results from the execution of the
11 park ranger's official duties.

12 (h) A public defender while engaged in the execution of any
13 official duties or if the assault results from the execution of the public
14 defender's official duties.

15 (i) A judicial officer while engaged in the execution of any
16 official duties or if the assault results from the execution of the
17 judicial officer's official duties.

18 (j) An employee of a law enforcement agency, other than a peace
19 officer, while engaged in the execution of any official duties.

20 (k) A public transit employee who performs duties on and off a
21 vehicle while engaged in transferring members of the community to and from
22 destinations in a bus, van or shuttle.

23 (l) An airport employee who interacts with the public while engaged
24 in the airport employee's work duties.

25 (m) A railway worker while engaged in operating a train, light rail
26 or passenger rail or performing track maintenance.

27 (n) AN EMPLOYEE OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WHO IS ENGAGED IN THE
28 EMPLOYEE'S WORK DUTIES:

29 (i) A PUBLIC UTILITY AS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 44-1376.

30 (ii) A LICENSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROVIDER.

31 (iii) A LICENSED VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDER.

32 (iv) A UTILITY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 40-491.

33 9. If the person knowingly takes or attempts to exercise control
34 over any of the following:

35 (a) A first responder's or other officer's firearm and the person
36 knows or has reason to know that the victim is a first responder or other
37 officer employed by one of the agencies listed in paragraph 10,
38 subdivision (a), item (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) or (v) of this subsection.

39 (b) Any weapon other than a firearm that is being used by a first
40 responder or other officer or that the first responder or other officer is
41 attempting to use, and the person knows or has reason to know that the
42 victim is a first responder or other officer employed by one of the
43 agencies listed in paragraph 10, subdivision (a), item (i), (ii), (iii),
44 (iv) or (v) of this subsection.

1 (c) Any implement that is being used by a first responder or other
2 officer or that the first responder or other officer is attempting to use,
3 and the person knows or has reason to know that the victim is a first
4 responder or other officer employed by one of the agencies listed in
5 paragraph 10, subdivision (a), item (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) or (v) of this
6 subsection. For the purposes of this subdivision, "implement" means an
7 object that is designed for or that is capable of restraining or injuring
8 an individual. Implement does not include handcuffs.

9 10. If the person meets both of the following conditions:

10 (a) Is imprisoned or otherwise subject to the custody of any of the
11 following:

12 (i) The state department of corrections.

13 (ii) The department of juvenile corrections.

14 (iii) A law enforcement agency.

15 (iv) A county or city jail or an adult or juvenile detention
16 facility of a city or county.

17 (v) Any other entity that is contracting with the state department
18 of corrections, the department of juvenile corrections, a law enforcement
19 agency, another state, any private correctional facility, a county, a city
20 or the federal bureau of prisons or other federal agency that has
21 responsibility for sentenced or unsentenced prisoners.

22 (b) Commits an assault knowing or having reason to know that the
23 victim is acting in an official capacity as an employee of any of the
24 entities listed in subdivision (a) of this paragraph.

25 11. If the person uses a simulated deadly weapon.

26 12. If the person is aided by two or more accomplices who aid in
27 committing the assault, the assault is directed at a single person and the
28 assault results in physical injury.

29 B. Until January 1, 2033, a person commits aggravated assault if
30 the person commits assault by either intentionally, knowingly or
31 recklessly causing any physical injury to another person, intentionally
32 placing another person in reasonable apprehension of imminent physical
33 injury or knowingly touching another person with the intent to injure the
34 person, and both of the following occur:

35 1. The person intentionally or knowingly impedes the normal
36 breathing or circulation of blood of another person by applying pressure
37 to the throat or neck or by obstructing the nose and mouth either manually
38 or through the use of an instrument.

39 2. Any of the circumstances exists that are set forth in section
40 13-3601, subsection A, paragraph 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6.

1 C. A person who is convicted of intentionally or knowingly
2 committing aggravated assault on a first responder pursuant to subsection
3 A, paragraph 1 or 2 of this section shall be sentenced to imprisonment for
4 not less than the presumptive sentence authorized under chapter 7 of this
5 title and is not eligible for suspension of sentence, commutation or
6 release on any basis until the sentence imposed is served.

7 D. If a person is convicted of committing aggravated assault on a
8 peace officer pursuant to this section and the trier of fact determines
9 that section 13-701, subsection D, paragraph 17 applies, the person shall
10 be sentenced to two years more than would otherwise be imposed for the
11 offense. The additional sentence imposed under this subsection is in
12 addition to any enhanced punishment that may be applicable under this
13 section or chapter 7 of this title. The person is not eligible for
14 suspension of sentence, commutation or release from confinement on any
15 basis, except as specifically authorized by section 31-233, subsection A
16 or B until the sentence imposed is served, the person is eligible for
17 release pursuant to section 41-1604.07 or the sentence is commuted.

18 E. It is not a defense to a prosecution for assaulting a peace
19 officer or a mitigating circumstance that the peace officer was not on
20 duty or engaged in the execution of any official duties.

21 F. Except pursuant to subsections G, H and I of this section,
22 aggravated assault pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 or 2, paragraph
23 9, subdivision (a) or paragraph 11 of this section is a class 3 felony
24 except if the aggravated assault is a violation of subsection A, paragraph
25 1 or 2 of this section and the victim is under fifteen years of age it is
26 a class 2 felony punishable pursuant to section 13-705. Aggravated assault
27 pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 3 or 12 or subsection B of this
28 section is a class 4 felony. Aggravated assault pursuant to subsection A,
29 paragraph 9, subdivision (b) or paragraph 10 of this section is a class 5
30 felony. Aggravated assault pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 4, 5, 6, 7
31 or 8 or paragraph 9, subdivision (c) of this section is a class 6 felony.

32 G. Aggravated assault pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 or 2 of
33 this section committed on a first responder is a class 2 felony.
34 Aggravated assault pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 3 of this section
35 committed on a first responder is a class 3 felony. Aggravated assault
36 pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 8, subdivision (a) of this section
37 committed on a first responder is a class 4 felony unless the assault
38 results in any physical injury to the first responder, in which case it is
39 a class 3 felony.

40 H. Aggravated assault pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 or 2 of
41 this section committed on an employee of a law enforcement agency is a
42 class 2 felony. Aggravated assault pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 3
43 of this section committed on an employee of a law enforcement agency is a
44 class 3 felony. Aggravated assault pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 8,
45 subdivision (j) of this section committed on an employee of a law

1 enforcement agency is a class 5 felony unless the assault results in any
2 physical injury to the employee, in which case it is a class 4 felony.

3 I. Aggravated assault pursuant to:

4 1. Subsection A, paragraph 1 or 2 of this section is a class 2
5 felony if committed on a prosecutor.

6 2. Subsection A, paragraph 3 of this section is a class 3 felony if
7 committed on a prosecutor.

8 3. Subsection A, paragraph 8, subdivision (e) of this section is a
9 class 5 felony if the assault results in physical injury to a prosecutor.

10 J. For the purposes of this section:

11 1. "Cognitive disability" has the same meaning prescribed in
12 section 36-551.

13 2. "Developmental disability" has the same meaning prescribed in
14 section 36-551.

15 3. "First responder" means:

16 (a) A peace officer.

17 (b) A firefighter, a fire marshal, a fire inspector, an emergency
18 medical care technician or a paramedic who is engaged in the execution of
19 any official duties.

20 (c) A tribal police officer.

21 4. "Health care worker" means:

22 (a) A person who is employed by or contracted to work at a health
23 care institution that is licensed pursuant to title 36.

24 (b) A person who is employed or contracted to provide health care
25 or related services in a fieldwork setting, including:

26 (i) Home health care, home-based hospice and home-based social
27 work, unless the worker is employed or contracted by an individual who
28 privately employs, in the individual's residence, the worker to perform
29 covered services for the individual or a family member of the individual.

30 (ii) Any emergency services and transport, including the services
31 provided by firefighters and emergency responders.

32 5. "Judicial officer" means a justice of the supreme court, judge,
33 justice of the peace or magistrate or a commissioner or hearing officer of
34 a state, county or municipal court.

35 6. "Mental disability" means a disabling neurological condition, or
36 brain injury, or involuntary impairment as a result of a medication that
37 is administered by a health care provider or a medical procedure that is
38 performed at a health care treatment site.

39 7. "Prosecutor" means a county attorney, a municipal prosecutor or
40 the attorney general and includes an assistant or deputy county attorney,
41 municipal prosecutor or attorney general.

1 Sec. 2. Section 13-1204, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by
2 Laws 2025, chapter 172, section 2, is amended to read:

3 13-1204. Aggravated assault; classification; definitions

4 A. Beginning from and after December 31, 2032, a person commits
5 aggravated assault if the person commits assault as prescribed by section
6 13-1203 under any of the following circumstances:

7 1. If the person causes serious physical injury to another.

8 2. If the person uses a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument.

9 3. If the person commits the assault by any means of force that
10 causes temporary but substantial disfigurement, temporary but substantial
11 loss or impairment of any body organ or part or a fracture of any body
12 part.

13 4. If the person commits the assault while the victim is bound or
14 otherwise physically restrained or while the victim's capacity to resist
15 is substantially impaired.

16 5. If the person commits the assault after entering the private
17 home of another with the intent to commit the assault.

18 6. If the person is eighteen years of age or older and commits the
19 assault on a minor under fifteen years of age.

20 7. If the person commits assault as prescribed by section 13-1203,
21 subsection A, paragraph 1 or 3 and the person is in violation of an order
22 of protection issued against the person pursuant to section 13-3602 or
23 13-3624.

24 8. If the person commits the assault knowing or having reason to
25 know that the victim is any of the following:

26 (a) A peace officer or a person summoned and directed by the
27 officer.

28 (b) A constable or a person summoned and directed by the constable
29 while engaged in the execution of any official duties or if the assault
30 results from the execution of the constable's official duties.

31 (c) A firefighter, fire investigator, fire inspector, emergency
32 medical technician or paramedic engaged in the execution of any official
33 duties or a person summoned and directed by such individual while engaged
34 in the execution of any official duties or if the assault results from the
35 execution of the official duties of the firefighter, fire investigator,
36 fire inspector, emergency medical technician or paramedic.

37 (d) A teacher or other person employed by any school and the
38 teacher or other employee is on the grounds of a school or grounds
39 adjacent to the school or is in any part of a building or vehicle used for
40 school purposes, any teacher or school nurse visiting a private home in
41 the course of the teacher's or nurse's professional duties or any teacher
42 engaged in any authorized and organized classroom activity held on other
43 than school grounds.

1 (e) A health care worker while engaged in the health care worker's
2 work duties or a health care practitioner who is certified or licensed
3 pursuant to title 32, chapter 13, 14, 15, 17 or 25, or a person summoned
4 and directed by the licensed health care practitioner while engaged in the
5 person's professional duties. This subdivision does not apply if the
6 person who commits the assault does not have the ability to form the
7 culpable mental state because of a mental disability, developmental
8 disability or cognitive disability or because the person is seriously
9 mentally ill, as defined in section 36-550.

10 (f) A prosecutor while engaged in the execution of any official
11 duties or if the assault results from the execution of the prosecutor's
12 official duties.

13 (g) A code enforcement officer as defined in section 39-123 while
14 engaged in the execution of any official duties or if the assault results
15 from the execution of the code enforcement officer's official duties.

16 (h) A state or municipal park ranger while engaged in the execution
17 of any official duties or if the assault results from the execution of the
18 park ranger's official duties.

19 (i) A public defender while engaged in the execution of any
20 official duties or if the assault results from the execution of the public
21 defender's official duties.

22 (j) A judicial officer while engaged in the execution of any
23 official duties or if the assault results from the execution of the
24 judicial officer's official duties.

25 (k) An employee of a law enforcement agency, other than a peace
26 officer, while engaged in the execution of any official duties.

27 (l) A public transit employee who performs duties on and off a
28 vehicle while engaged in transferring members of the community to and from
29 destinations in a bus, van or shuttle.

30 (m) An airport employee who interacts with the public while engaged
31 in the airport employee's work duties.

32 (n) A railway worker while engaged in operating a train, light rail
33 or passenger rail or performing track maintenance.

34 (o) AN EMPLOYEE OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WHO IS ENGAGED IN THE
35 EMPLOYEE'S WORK DUTIES:

36 (i) A PUBLIC UTILITY AS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 44-1376.

37 (ii) A LICENSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROVIDER.

38 (iii) A LICENSED VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDER.

39 (iv) A UTILITY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 40-491.

40 9. If the person knowingly takes or attempts to exercise control
41 over any of the following:

42 (a) A peace officer's or other officer's firearm and the person
43 knows or has reason to know that the victim is a peace officer or other
44 officer employed by one of the agencies listed in paragraph 10,
45 subdivision (a), item (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) or (v) of this subsection.

1 (b) Any weapon other than a firearm that is being used by a peace
2 officer or other officer or that the officer is attempting to use, and the
3 person knows or has reason to know that the victim is a peace officer or
4 other officer employed by one of the agencies listed in paragraph 10,
5 subdivision (a), item (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) or (v) of this subsection.

6 (c) Any implement that is being used by a peace officer or other
7 officer or that the officer is attempting to use, and the person knows or
8 has reason to know that the victim is a peace officer or other officer
9 employed by one of the agencies listed in paragraph 10, subdivision (a),
10 item (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) or (v) of this subsection. For the purposes
11 of this subdivision, "implement" means an object that is designed for or
12 that is capable of restraining or injuring an individual. Implement does
13 not include handcuffs.

14 10. If the person meets both of the following conditions:

15 (a) Is imprisoned or otherwise subject to the custody of any of the
16 following:

17 (i) The state department of corrections.

18 (ii) The department of juvenile corrections.

19 (iii) A law enforcement agency.

20 (iv) A county or city jail or an adult or juvenile detention
21 facility of a city or county.

22 (v) Any other entity that is contracting with the state department
23 of corrections, the department of juvenile corrections, a law enforcement
24 agency, another state, any private correctional facility, a county, a city
25 or the federal bureau of prisons or other federal agency that has
26 responsibility for sentenced or unsentenced prisoners.

27 (b) Commits an assault knowing or having reason to know that the
28 victim is acting in an official capacity as an employee of any of the
29 entities listed in subdivision (a) of this paragraph.

30 11. If the person uses a simulated deadly weapon.

31 12. If the person is aided by two or more accomplices WHO aid in
32 committing the assault, the assault is directed at a single person and the
33 assault results in physical injury.

34 B. Beginning from and after December 31, 2032, a person commits
35 aggravated assault if the person commits assault by either intentionally,
36 knowingly or recklessly causing any physical injury to another person,
37 intentionally placing another person in reasonable apprehension of
38 imminent physical injury or knowingly touching another person with the
39 intent to injure the person, and both of the following occur:

40 1. The person intentionally or knowingly impedes the normal
41 breathing or circulation of blood of another person by applying pressure
42 to the throat or neck or by obstructing the nose and mouth either manually
43 or through the use of an instrument.

44 2. Any of the circumstances exists that are set forth in section
45 13-3601, subsection A, paragraph 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6.

1 C. A person who is convicted of intentionally or knowingly
2 committing aggravated assault on a peace officer pursuant to subsection A,
3 paragraph 1 or 2 of this section shall be sentenced to imprisonment for
4 not less than the presumptive sentence authorized under chapter 7 of this
5 title and is not eligible for suspension of sentence, commutation or
6 release on any basis until the sentence imposed is served.

7 D. If a person is convicted of committing aggravated assault on a
8 peace officer pursuant to this section and the trier of fact determines
9 that section 13-701, subsection D, paragraph 17 applies, the person shall
10 be sentenced to two years more than would otherwise be imposed for the
11 offense. The additional sentence imposed under this subsection is in
12 addition to any enhanced punishment that may be applicable under this
13 section or chapter 7 of this title. The person is not eligible for
14 suspension of sentence, commutation or release from confinement on any
15 basis, except as specifically authorized by section 31-233, subsection A
16 or B until the sentence imposed is served, the person is eligible for
17 release pursuant to section 41-1604.07 or the sentence is commuted.

18 E. It is not a defense to a prosecution for assaulting a peace
19 officer or a mitigating circumstance that the peace officer was not on
20 duty or engaged in the execution of any official duties.

21 F. Except pursuant to subsections G, H and I of this section,
22 aggravated assault pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 or 2, paragraph
23 9, subdivision (a) or paragraph 11 of this section is a class 3 felony
24 except if the aggravated assault is a violation of subsection A, paragraph
25 1 or 2 of this section and the victim is under fifteen years of age it is
26 a class 2 felony punishable pursuant to section 13-705. Aggravated assault
27 pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 3 or 12 or subsection B of this
28 section is a class 4 felony. Aggravated assault pursuant to subsection A,
29 paragraph 9, subdivision (b) or paragraph 10 of this section is a class 5
30 felony. Aggravated assault pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 4, 5, 6, 7
31 or 8 or paragraph 9, subdivision (c) of this section is a class 6 felony.

32 G. Aggravated assault pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 or 2 of
33 this section committed on a peace officer is a class 2 felony. Aggravated
34 assault pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 3 of this section committed on
35 a peace officer is a class 3 felony. Aggravated assault pursuant to
36 subsection A, paragraph 8, subdivision (a) of this section committed on a
37 peace officer is a class 5 felony unless the assault results in any
38 physical injury to the peace officer, in which case it is a class 4
39 felony.

40 H. Aggravated assault pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 or 2 of
41 this section committed on an employee of a law enforcement agency is a
42 class 2 felony. Aggravated assault pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 3
43 of this section committed on an employee of a law enforcement agency is a
44 class 3 felony. Aggravated assault pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 8,
45 subdivision (j) of this section committed on an employee of a law

1 enforcement agency is a class 5 felony unless the assault results in any
2 physical injury to the employee, in which case it is a class 4 felony.

3 I. Aggravated assault pursuant to:

4 1. Subsection A, paragraph 1 or 2 of this section is a class 2
5 felony if committed on a prosecutor.

6 2. Subsection A, paragraph 3 of this section is a class 3 felony if
7 committed on a prosecutor.

8 3. Subsection A, paragraph 8, subdivision (f) of this section is a
9 class 5 felony if the assault results in physical injury to a prosecutor.

10 J. For the purposes of this section:

11 1. "Cognitive disability" has the same meaning prescribed in
12 section 36-551.

13 2. "Developmental disability" has the same meaning prescribed in
14 section 36-551.

15 3. "Health care worker" means:

16 (a) A person who is employed by or contracted to work at a health
17 care institution that is licensed pursuant to title 36.

18 (b) A person who is employed or contracted to provide health care
19 or related services in a fieldwork setting, including:

20 (i) Home health care, home-based hospice and home-based social
21 work, unless the worker is employed or contracted by an individual who
22 privately employs, in the individual's residence, the worker to perform
23 covered services for the individual or a family member of the individual.

24 (ii) Any emergency services and transport, including the services
25 provided by firefighters and emergency responders.

26 4. "Judicial officer" means a justice of the supreme court, judge,
27 justice of the peace or magistrate or a commissioner or hearing officer of
28 a state, county or municipal court.

29 5. "Mental disability" means a disabling neurological condition, or
30 brain injury, or involuntary impairment as a result of a medication that
31 is administered by a health care provider or a medical procedure that is
32 performed at a health care treatment site.

33 6. "Prosecutor" means a county attorney, a municipal prosecutor or
34 the attorney general and includes an assistant or deputy county attorney,
35 municipal prosecutor or attorney general.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR JUNE 19, 2026.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE JUNE 22, 2026.