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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2355 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY SHUSTERMAN, PIELLI, KINSEY, HILL-EVANS, SANCHEZ,  
PROBST, VENKAT, GUENST, KENYATTA, SCHLOSSBERG, CIRESI,  
CERRATO, KIM, D. WILLIAMS, MAYES AND WARREN, MAY 29, 2024

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MAY 29, 2024

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in assault, providing for the offense  
3 of intimidation of health care workers.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 2706.1. Intimidation of health care workers.

9 (a) Offense defined.--A person commits the offense of  
10 intimidation of a health care worker if the person orally or in  
11 writing:

12 (1) knowingly and willfully makes a threat against any  
13 health care practitioner, technician or hospital security  
14 officer with the intent to intimidate, interfere with or  
15 impede the performance of official duties; or

16 (2) knowingly sends, delivers or makes for the purpose  
17 of sending or delivering a threat prohibited under paragraph  
18 (1).

1 (b) Grading.--

2 (1) An offense under subsection (a) constitutes a  
3 summary offense for the first offense and, upon conviction,  
4 shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$500. The  
5 person also may be sentenced to perform not more than 50  
6 hours of community service.

7 (2) A second or subsequent offense under subsection (a)  
8 shall constitute a misdemeanor of the third degree and, upon  
9 conviction, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than  
10 \$500 nor more than \$2,500. The person also may be sentenced  
11 to imprisonment for a period not to exceed one year or to  
12 perform not more than 500 hours of community service.

13 (c) Posting of notice.--Notice of the offense under this  
14 section shall be posted conspicuously at each public entrance to  
15 each health care facility. No person shall be convicted of an  
16 offense under this section if the notice was not posted at each  
17 public entrance of the health care facility unless the person  
18 had actual notice of the offense.

19 (d) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
20 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
21 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

22 "Health care facility." The term shall have the meaning  
23 given to it in section 103 of the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130,  
24 No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities Act.

25 "Health care practitioner." The term shall have the meaning  
26 given to it in section 103 of the Health Care Facilities Act.

27 "Hospital security officer." An employee of a hospital  
28 charged with maintaining the safety and security of the property  
29 of the hospital and the individuals on the property.

30 "Technician." The term shall have the meaning given to it in

1 the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the  
2 Medical Practice Act of 1985.

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.