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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES-ASSAULTS

Introduced By: Senators Goodwin, and Metts

Date Introduced: April 12, 2017

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 11-5 of the General Laws entitled "Assaults" is hereby amended by
2 adding thereto the following section:

3 **11-5-18. Assaults on dwarfs or little people.**

4 (a) Definitions. As used in this chapter:

5 (1) "Disproportionate dwarf" means any person who has one or more body parts being
6 relatively large or small in comparison to those of an average sized adult.

7 (2) "Dwarf" or "little person" means any individual who is short in stature resulting from
8 a medical condition caused by slow growth and who is less than four feet ten inches (4' 10") in
9 height. "Dwarf" does not include any person who is short in stature, but whose height is inherited
10 and not a result of a medical condition.

11 (3) "Proportionate dwarf" means any person who has a body that appears normally
12 proportioned but is unusually small.

13 (4) "Serious bodily injury" means physical injury that:

14 (i) Creates a substantial risk of death and/or serious disfigurement;

15 (ii) Causes protracted loss or impairment of the function of any body part, member or
16 organ; or

17 (iii) Causes serious permanent disfigurement.

18 (b) Any person who shall knowingly and willfully commit an assault or battery, or both,
19 upon a dwarf, a disproportionate dwarf or a proportionate dwarf, resulting in bodily injury, shall

1 be deemed to have committed a felony and shall be imprisoned up to three (3) years or be fined
2 not exceeding one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500), or both.

3 (c) Any person who shall knowingly and willfully commit an assault or battery, or both,
4 upon a dwarf, a disproportionate dwarf or a proportionate dwarf, resulting in serious bodily
5 injury, shall be deemed to have committed a felony and shall be imprisoned up to twenty (20)
6 years or be fined not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or both.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would make an assault or battery upon a dwarf resulting in bodily injury a felony
2 and would be punishable by up to three (3) years imprisonment and an assault resulting in serious
3 bodily injury punishable by up to twenty (20) years imprisonment.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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