



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 599

H.P. 415

House of Representatives, February 16, 2017

An Act To Prevent Violence against Emergency Responders

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WARD of Dedham.
Cosponsored by Senator ROSEN of Hancock and
Representatives: COREY of Windham, GERRISH of Lebanon, GROHMAN of Biddeford,
HARRINGTON of Sanford, HERRICK of Paris, NADEAU of Winslow, SKOLFIELD of
Weld, THERIAULT of China.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §752-A, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 1977, c. 656, §2, is
3 amended to read:

4 3. Assault on an officer is a Class C crime.

5 **Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §752-C, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 1997, c. 470, §1, is
6 amended to read:

7 3. Assault on an emergency medical care provider is a Class C crime.

8 **Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §752-E, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 2015, c. 471, §2, is
9 amended to read:

10 3. Assault on a firefighter is a Class C crime.

11 **Sec. 4. 17-A MRSA §1151, sub-§8, ¶B,** as amended by PL 2005, c. 551, §1, is
12 further amended to read:

13 B. The selection by the defendant of the person against whom the crime was
14 committed or of the property that was damaged or otherwise affected by the crime
15 because of the race, color, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, physical or mental
16 disability, sexual orientation or homelessness of that person or of the owner or
17 occupant of that property or because of that person's status as a law enforcement
18 officer, emergency medical care provider or firefighter or such status of the owner or
19 occupant of that property.

20 As used in this paragraph, "emergency medical care provider" has the same meaning
21 as in Title 17-A, section 752-C, subsection 2 and "firefighter" means a municipal
22 firefighter or volunteer firefighter as defined in Title 30-A, section 3151, subsections
23 2 and 4, respectively.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill increases the classification of the crimes of assault on an officer, assault on
26 an emergency medical care provider and assault on a firefighter from Class C to Class B
27 crimes. It also extends the application of the hate crime sentencing laws to a defendant
28 who selects the person against whom a crime is committed because of that person's status
29 as a law enforcement officer, emergency medical care provider or firefighter or who
30 selects property to damage because of such status of the owner or occupant of that
31 property.