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This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

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**Act No. 24 (S. 36). An act relating to crimes against health care workers at hospitals and against emergency medical treatment providers**

**Subjects: Criminal procedures; arrest without warrant; crimes against health care workers at health facilities**

This act contains several provisions related to crimes against health care workers in hospitals and against emergency medical treatment providers. The act permits a law enforcement officer to arrest a person without a warrant if the officer has probable cause to believe the person has committed certain misdemeanor crimes outside the presence of the officer and against health care workers in hospitals or against emergency medical treatment providers. The act also enhances the penalty for the crime of criminal threatening if the offense is committed with the intent to terrify or intimidate a health care worker or an emergency medical personnel member because of the worker's or member's action or inaction taken in the provision of health care services. When a law enforcement officer responds to an alleged crime committed by a patient at a hospital or at an emergency medical treatment scene, the act prohibits the officer from removing the patient from the hospital or the treatment scene until the officer is provided with information that is sufficient to confirm whether the patient is stabilized, has been evaluated, or is awaiting additional care, as well as any other information necessary to safely take custody of the patient. The act also requires the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care to provide a report to the Legislature on de-escalation of potentially violent situations in hospitals and requires the Department of Public safety to report to the Legislature on any systemic or statutory changes needed to permit collection of data about the new warrantless arrest provisions of the act.

Effective Date: May 30, 2023