

1 S.36

2 An act relating to permitting an arrest without a warrant for assaults and  
3 threats against health care workers and disorderly conduct at health care  
4 facilities

5 The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill by striking out all after  
6 the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. Rule 3 of the Vermont Rules of Criminal Procedure is amended to  
8 read:

9 Rule 3. Arrest Without a Warrant; Citation to Appear

10 \* \* \*

11 (c) Nonwitnessed Misdemeanor Offenses. If an officer has probable cause  
12 to believe a person has committed or is committing a misdemeanor outside the  
13 presence of the officer, the officer may issue a citation to appear before a  
14 judicial officer in lieu of arrest. The officer may arrest the person without a  
15 warrant if the officer has probable cause to believe:

16 \* \* \*

17 (8) The person has committed a misdemeanor which involves an assault  
18 against a family member, or against a household member, as defined in 15  
19 V.S.A. § 1101(2), or a child of such a family or household member.

20 \* \* \*

21 (14) The person has violated 13 V.S.A. § 1023 (simple assault).

22 \* \* \*



1 Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 1702 is amended to read:

2 § 1702. CRIMINAL THREATENING

3 (a) A person shall not by words or conduct knowingly:

4 (1) threaten another person or a group of particular persons; and

5 (2) as a result of the threat, place the other person in reasonable

6 apprehension of death, serious bodily injury, or sexual assault to the other

7 person, a person in the group of particular persons, or any other person.

8 (b) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be imprisoned

9 not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

10 \* \* \*

11 (f) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section with the intent to

12 terrify, intimidate, or unlawfully influence the conduct of a candidate for

13 public office, a public servant, an election official, or a public employee in any

14 decision, opinion, recommendation, vote, or other exercise of discretion taken

15 in capacity as a candidate for public office, a public servant, an election

16 official, or a public employee, or with the intent to retaliate against a candidate

17 for public office, a public servant, an election official, or a public employee for

18 any previous action taken in capacity as a candidate for public office, a public

19 servant, an election official, or a public employee, shall be imprisoned not

20 more than two years or fined not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

1       (g) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section with the intent to  
2 terrify or intimidate a health care worker or an emergency medical personnel  
3 member because of the worker's or member's action or inaction taken in the  
4 provision of health care services shall be imprisoned not more than two years  
5 or fined not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

6       (h) As used in this section:

7           (1) "Serious bodily injury" has the same meaning as in section 1021 of  
8 this title.

9           (2) "Threat" and "threaten" do not include constitutionally protected  
10 activity.

11           (3) "Candidate" has the same meaning as in 17 V.S.A. § 2103.

12           (4) "Election official" has the same meaning as in 17 V.S.A. § 2455.

13           (5) "Public employee" means a classified employee within the  
14 Legislative, Executive, or Judicial Branch of the State and any of its political  
15 subdivisions and any employee within a county or local government and any of  
16 the county's or local government's political subdivisions.

17           (6) "Public servant" has the same meaning as in 17 V.S.A. § 2103.

18           (7) "Polling place" has the same meaning as described in 17 V.S.A.  
19 chapter 51, subchapter 4.

20           (8) "Sexual assault" has the same meaning as sexual assault as described  
21 in section 3252 of this title.

1           (9) “Emergency medical personnel” has the same meaning as in 24  
2 V.S.A. § 2651(6).

3           (10) “Health care services” means services for the diagnosis, prevention,  
4 treatment, cure, or relief of a health condition, illness, injury, or disease.

5           (11) “Health care worker” has the same meaning as in section 1028 of  
6 this title.

7       ~~(h)~~(i) Any person charged under this section who is younger than the age  
8 identified in 33 V.S.A. § 5201(d) shall be subject to a juvenile proceeding.

9       Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 1883 is added to read:

10       § 1883. DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

11           REQUIRED

12       (a) When a law enforcement officer responds to an alleged crime  
13 committed by a patient at a hospital:

14           (1) an authorized representative of the hospital shall disclose to the law  
15 enforcement officer the following information before the officer removes the  
16 patient from the hospital:

17           (A) information that is sufficient to confirm whether the patient is  
18 stabilized, has been evaluated, or is awaiting inpatient care; and

19           (B) any other information that will be necessary for purposes of  
20 safely taking custody of the patient; and

1           (2) the law enforcement officer shall not remove the patient from the  
2 hospital if an authorized representative of the hospital informs the officer that  
3 the patient is not stabilized, has not yet been evaluated, or is awaiting inpatient  
4 care.

5           (b) When a law enforcement officer responds to an alleged crime  
6 committed by a patient at a scene where emergency medical treatment was or  
7 is being provided:

8           (1) a member of the emergency medical personnel who provided the  
9 treatment shall disclose to the law enforcement officer the following  
10 information before the officer removes the patient from the emergency medical  
11 treatment scene:

12           (A) information that is sufficient to confirm whether the patient is  
13 stabilized, has been evaluated, or is awaiting transport for health care; and

14           (B) any other information that will be necessary for purposes of  
15 safely taking custody of the patient; and

16           (2) the law enforcement officer shall not remove the patient from the  
17 emergency medical treatment scene if a member of the emergency medical  
18 personnel who provided the treatment informs the officer that the patient is not  
19 stabilized, has not yet been evaluated, or is awaiting transport for health care.

20           (c) As used in this section:

1           (1) “Emergency medical personnel” has the same meaning as in  
2           24 V.S.A. § 2651(6).

3           (2) “Emergency medical treatment” has the same meaning as in  
4           24 V.S.A. § 2651(9).

5           (3) “Hospital” has the same meaning as in subdivision 1902(1) of this  
6           title.

7           (4) “Stabilized” means that no material deterioration of the patient’s  
8           medical condition is likely, within reasonable medical probability, to result  
9           from or occur during the transport of the patient from the hospital or the  
10           emergency medical treatment scene.

11       Sec. 4. REPORT ON DE-ESCALATION

12           On or before January 15, 2024, the Vermont Program for Quality in Health  
13           Care, in consultation with stakeholders, including hospital employee  
14           stakeholders, shall provide a report to the Senate Committee on Health and  
15           Welfare and the House Committee on Health Care regarding adequate training,  
16           including de-escalation of potentially violent situations in hospitals, sufficient  
17           staffing levels, ongoing assessment of visitors and patients for aggressive  
18           behavior, indicators to adapt care interventions and environments  
19           appropriately, centralized reporting, and factors related to physical  
20           environments. With a health equity impact informed lens, the report shall

1 include best practices, barriers to best practices, and recommendations for  
2 appropriate policy improvements.

3 Sec. 5. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT ON ARRESTS  
4 WITHOUT WARRANT

5 On or before January 15, 2024, the Department of Public Safety shall report  
6 to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary on any systemic or statutory  
7 changes needed to permit the Department to collect data on responses and  
8 arrests pursuant to Vermont Rules of Criminal Procedure 3(c)(18), (19), and  
9 (20). The report shall include changes necessary to collect data on the number  
10 and demographics of persons arrested; the town, county, and type of health  
11 care facility where the arrest occurred; and the number and types of charges  
12 filed after the arrest.

13 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on passage.  
15 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating  
16 to crimes against health care workers at hospitals and against emergency  
17 medical treatment providers”