



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 1302 - Criminal Law - Felony Second - Degree Assault - Emergency Medical Care Workers

SPONSOR: Delegates Ciliberti, Cox, *et al.*

HEARING DATE: February 21, 2020

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1302 - Criminal Law - Felony Second - Degree Assault - Emergency Medical Care Workers**, which expands felony second-degree assault to include intentionally physically injuring an individual while either knowing or having reason to know that the individual provides emergency and related services in an emergency department at a hospital or a freestanding medical facility.

Existing law already makes it a felony to assault a variety of first responders who are actively engaged in official duties. This law adds medical professionals as victims of *felony* assault should they be assaulted during the course of their duties. While their actions are often not quite as public facing, their behind the scenes work to assist community members in need is no less deserving of additional protection. This bill recognizes that assaulting a medical professional during the course of their duties harms more than just the person who is assaulted, but also the entire mechanism by which we are able to collectively provide service to our community.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1302** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.