



**New York State YMCA**  
**Youth And Government**

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**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®**  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2

Bill #:AF-10

1 **Sponsors:** Armand Chancellor, Jacob Taylor, Matthew Vlacich, George Laopodis

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3 **An Act To:** Amend § 120.08 of penal law to make assaulting a first responder a class  
4 A felony.

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6

7 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

8

9 **Purpose:** To make assaulting a first responder a class A felony.

10

11 **Summary of Provisions**

12 **Section 1: Definitions**

13 **First Responder: Peace officer, police officer, firefighter or emergency medical**  
14 **services professional.**

15 **Class C Felony: 3 ½ – 15 years maximum sentence.**

16 **Class A Felony: 20 years to life imprisonment.**

17

18 **Section 2:** A person is guilty of assault on a peace officer, police officer,  
19 firefighter or emergency medical services professional when, with intent to prevent  
20 a peace officer, police officer, a firefighter, including a firefighter acting as a  
21 paramedic or emergency medical technician administering first aid in the  
22 course of performance of duty as such firefighter, or an emergency medical  
23 service paramedic or emergency medical service technician, from performing a  
24 lawful duty, he or she causes serious physical injury to such peace officer, police  
25 officer, firefighter, paramedic or technician. Assault on a peace officer, police  
26 officer, firefighter or emergency medical services professional is a ~~class C felony~~  
27 **class A felony.**

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29

30 **Justification**

31 Every day, thousands of people all across New York leave their homes in the name  
32 service. These people are first responders who keep our streets and communities  
33 safe. Despite their heroic actions, these people are harassed, assaulted and  
34 sometimes even murdered. It is past time that we protect the men and women who  
35 risk their lives every day. Over 50,000 first responders were assaulted while  
36 performing their duties in 2016. We need ensure our first responders are safe and  
37 able to carry out their jobs successfully.

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40 **Fiscal Implications**



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41 It costs around \$69,000 to house an inmate each year in New York. There will not  
42 be a raise in taxes because there is already funding in the state budget.

43

44 **Enviornmental Implications**

45 It will allow first responders to feel protected while performing their duties.

46

47 **Effective Date**

48 One year after passage.