

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO. H1910

TITLE: An Act regarding willful injury to public defenders and other court personnel.

SPONSOR: Rep. James M. Murphy

CO-SPONSORS: None

HEARING DATE: May 6, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: H1696 (2023-2024) H911 (2017-2018)
H1812 (2021-2022) H1508 (2015-2016)
H3402 (2019-2020)

SENATE BILL: None

CURRENT LAW: Section 13D of Chapter 265 of the General Laws creates the crimes of assault and battery upon public employees, attempts to disarm a police officer, and assault and battery upon a police officer. The statute penalizes assault and battery upon any public employee when such person is engaged in the performance of their duties at the time of such assault and battery. The offense carries a sentence of between 90 days to 2.5 years' incarceration or and a fine of \$500 to \$5,000, or both.

SUMMARY: Section 1 – Adds a new Section to Chapter 269 prohibiting the direct or indirect willful harm or serious bodily injury to any public employee, public defender, probation officer or any member of the court system punishable by up to 2 years in a house of correction or not more than a \$2,000 fine, or both.