

HOUSE BILL NO. 384

INTRODUCED BY T. WOODS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE OFFENSE OF ASSAULT ON A MEMBER OF THE PRESS; AND PROVIDING A PENALTY."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Assault on member of the press. (1) A person commits the offense of assault on a member of the press if, while the member of the press is exercising the right to free speech, expression, and press as provided in Article II, section 7, of the Montana constitution, the person:

- (a) purposely or knowingly causes bodily injury to the member of the press;
- (b) negligently causes bodily injury to the member of the press with a weapon;
- (c) purposely or knowingly makes physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the member of the press; or
- (d) purposely or knowingly causes reasonable apprehension of bodily injury in the member of the press.

(2) A person convicted of assault on a member of the press shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$5,000 or be imprisoned in the county jail for any term not to exceed 1 year, or both.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 45, chapter 5, part 2, and the provisions of Title 45, chapter 5, part 2, apply to [section 1].

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