

CHAPTER 2013-114

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 489

An act relating to railroad police officers; amending s. 354.01, F.S.; authorizing the temporary appointment of special officers who meet certain qualifications; requiring special officers employed by a railroad or other common carrier to have specified qualifications and meet specified continuing training or education requirements; providing that a Class I, Class II, or Class III railroad shall be considered an employing agency for specified purposes and shall pay costs associated with training and continuing education; amending s. 784.07, F.S.; defining the term "railroad special officer"; providing for reclassification of certain offenses committed against a railroad special officer; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 354.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

354.01 Appointment of special officers.—Upon the application of any railroad or other common carrier doing business in this state, the Governor shall appoint one or more persons who have met the law enforcement qualifications and training requirements of s. 943.13 943.13(1)-(10) as special officers for the protection and safety of such carriers; their passengers and employees; and the property of such carriers, passengers, and employees. However, until the Governor either appoints or rejects the application for appointment of a person as a special officer, the railroad or common carrier may temporarily employ the person as a special officer if he or she complies with the qualifications for employment as a law enforcement officer in s. 943.13. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a special officer must have the same training as a law enforcement officer in accordance with ss. 943.13 and 943.135(1). A Class I, Class II, or Class III railroad shall be considered an employing agency for purposes of ss. 943.13 and 943.135(1), and shall pay all costs associated with the training and continuing education of employed special officers.

Section 2. Paragraph (f) is added to subsection (1) of section 784.07, Florida Statutes, and subsection (2) of that section is amended, to read:

784.07 Assault or battery of law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical care providers, public transit employees or agents, or other specified officers; reclassification of offenses; minimum sentences.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(f) "Railroad special officer" means a person employed by a Class I, Class II, or Class III railroad and appointed or pending appointment by the Governor pursuant to s. 354.01.

(2) Whenever any person is charged with knowingly committing an assault or battery upon a law enforcement officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical care provider, a railroad special officer, a traffic accident investigation officer as described in s. 316.640, a nonsworn law enforcement agency employee who is certified as an agency inspector, a blood alcohol analyst, or a breath test operator while such employee is in uniform and engaged in processing, testing, evaluating, analyzing, or transporting a person who is detained or under arrest for DUI, a law enforcement explorer, a traffic infraction enforcement officer as described in s. 316.640, a parking enforcement specialist as defined in s. 316.640, a person licensed as a security officer as defined in s. 493.6101 and wearing a uniform that bears at least one patch or emblem that is visible at all times that clearly identifies the employing agency and that clearly identifies the person as a licensed security officer, or a security officer employed by the board of trustees of a community college, while the officer, firefighter, emergency medical care provider, railroad special officer, traffic accident investigation officer, traffic infraction enforcement officer, inspector, analyst, operator, law enforcement explorer, parking enforcement specialist, public transit employee or agent, or security officer is engaged in the lawful performance of his or her duties, the offense for which the person is charged shall be reclassified as follows:

- (a) In the case of assault, from a misdemeanor of the second degree to a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- (b) In the case of battery, from a misdemeanor of the first degree to a felony of the third degree.
- (c) In the case of aggravated assault, from a felony of the third degree to a felony of the second degree. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person convicted of aggravated assault upon a law enforcement officer shall be sentenced to a minimum term of imprisonment of 3 years.
- (d) In the case of aggravated battery, from a felony of the second degree to a felony of the first degree. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person convicted of aggravated battery of a law enforcement officer shall be sentenced to a minimum term of imprisonment of 5 years.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor June 5, 2013.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 5, 2013.